



The Final Days of Michael Jackson

Inside the battle for his money, his children and his legacy

TIME

Unfaithfully Yours


Infidelity is eroding our most sacred institution.
How to make marriage matter again. **By Caitlin Flanagan**





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10 Questions.

The *Rich Dad, Poor Dad* financial guru's new book is *Conspiracy of the Rich*. **Robert Kiyosaki will now take your questions**

The *Rich Dad* in your first book was based on your friend's father. What is that friend doing these days?

Syed Tabish Rehman

CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

He's a rich man. He's managing the family estate. I published *Rich Dad, Poor Dad* in 1997, and both my real dad and my other dad were dead. If I had written the book while my real dad was still alive, he'd have killed me.

If you did not have your *Rich Dad* in your life, what would you be doing today?

Ajay Gupta, GRAYSLAKE, ILL.

That's hard to say. As a young kid, I really wanted to be rich. I think you naturally seek your role models and teachers. Today I still seek mentors and wise men and wise women because that's how you get wiser—by hanging out with smart people.

At one point, you were living out of your car. How did you remain confident that you would be able to retire rich?

Stephen San Roman

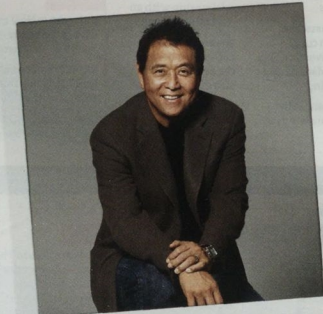
LAREDO, TEXAS

Confidence comes from discipline and training. I spent six years in the Marine Corps. Military training teaches you that there are four strengths: mental, emotional, physical and spiritual. What happens for most people, since they lack that discipline, they crack under pressure. That discipline and training kept me going.

Is it possible for a person with no money and few resources to still make a fortune? How?

Muhammad Zafar

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN



Robert Kiyosaki
KIDWOLFEDGE: The New Money

Get off your butt. You have to look for teachers. If you want to be a mechanic, go hang out with mechanics. It's really simple, but it takes determination, discipline, drive. You can't quit.

Do you think anybody can be successful in business?

Rogelio Gonzales

BRICK TOWNSHIP, N.J.

Absolutely. It takes discipline. Most people would like to have a great body like Charles Atlas, but they're at Burger King wolfing down a Whopper with fries. I don't know how you can expect to get anything you want without some degree of long-term commitment. Quitting is the easiest thing to do. That's why most people don't make it.

Does education have anything to do with how rich or poor you become?

Muhammad Umar Gulzar

NEW YORK CITY

No. Education is what you learn after you leave school.

You've said that your dad forbade your family to talk about money at the dinner table. Are people allowed to talk about money at your dinner table?

Jay Siena, TOKYO

That's all I talk about is money. When somebody tells me, "We don't discuss money"—well, money is discussed every day. We may not discuss religion, we may not discuss politics, but my decision to live in a safer community or have better food—it's all based upon money.

Are there opportunities to create new companies in this turbulent economy?

Jefferson Camargo

SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

This is the best time. When times are bad is when the real entrepreneurs emerge. Entrepreneurs don't really care if the market's up or down. They're creating better products and better processes. So when somebody says, "Oh, there's less opportunity now," it's because they're losers.

I am in the middle of a business project, but I have doubts and fear of failing. How can I overcome this?

Javier Hernandez

GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

Everybody has doubts and fear of failing. But look at Tiger Woods or any great athlete: when the going gets tough, that's when they turn into geniuses and most people turn into wimps.

You talk about the profits that can be made flipping real estate properties. Did you take losses in the market downturn of the past few years?

Kenny Smith, BOSTON

I never said that. I don't believe in flipping real estate properties. Flipping is gambling. That's not what I do. I am a pure investor. I look at properties for the cash flow. The people that are worried today are flippers. The people invested for cash flow are still doing fine. ■



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VISA

Postcard: Tegucigalpa.

The military ouster of a leftist leader plunges Honduras into a political crisis reminiscent of the 1980s. As rich and poor square off, a nation rolls back the clock

BY IOAN GRILLO


Global Dispatch
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TWO PLAZAS. TWO DEMONSTRATIONS. One street apart. In Parque la Merced, angry protesters push against soldiers surrounding Tegucigalpa's parliament. With sun-scorched faces and hardened hands, they cry passionately about the misery of the Honduran poor. And they chant the name of the man they say has helped them: President Manuel Zelaya, whom they fondly call Mel. A hundred yards away, in Parque Central, marchers in neat, white T-shirts and designer sunglasses sing the Honduran national anthem. They blast Zelaya as a fire-breathing class warrior and heartily applaud the troops for rousting him from bed at the crack of dawn on June 28 and flying him out of the country in his pajamas.

These scenes of chaos in a sweltering tropical republic seem like part of a time warp from Central America's war-ridden 1980s. Indeed, as Honduras struggles with the first regional coup in almost two decades, it resembles the bad old days of the Cold War. Soldiers stand on every corner, backed up by humvees and low-flying helicopters. In the heat of the afternoon, groups of young men gather in the streets, burning tires and smashing windows, before troops hit back with baton charges and tear gas. Then as darkness descends, everyone rushes home to beat an all-night curfew.

The mustachioed, Stetson-wearing Zelaya cuts an unlikely figure for a leftist hero. A 56-year-old rancher and timber merchant, he took office in 2006 after campaigning as a centrist. But once in power, he grew close to Venezuela's Hugo Chávez and soon copied his formula for popularity: give handouts to the poor and blame Honduras' problems on the rich. Amid rising crime and a sputtering economy, Tegucigalpa's Establishment turned on Zelaya. The boiling point came when he called for a nonbinding referendum on changing the constitution to allow Presidents to stand for a second term.



Street fight Supporters of ousted President Zelaya clash with soldiers in Honduras' capital

Even though the Supreme Court ruled the vote was illegal, Zelaya vowed to proceed. Before he could do so, however, soldiers whisked him away.

True to '80s-style politics, coup supporters are quick to smear Zelaya as a communist who planned to turn this nation of sweatshops and banana plantations into a Soviet-style fortress. One of his worst crimes, say critics in Parque Central, was boosting the minimum wage to \$290 a month. "With this action, he declared war on business," says Jesus Sabat, a 23-year-old entrepreneur, waving the nation's blue and white flag.

Down the street at Parque la Merced, the poor complain that their lot hasn't improved in the past two decades. "You can work all your life, but you can never make it in this country," says waiter Antonio Bustamante, 50, waving his hands in fury. "The problem is the rich," chips in Maya Martinez, a 42-year-old housewife. "We have a few wealthy families who own everything, and don't even pay taxes. They attacked Zelaya because he stood up to them."

But while Honduras may be stuck in the past, the rest of the world has moved on. President Barack Obama, along with the rest of the international community, was quick to condemn the coup. His position has left an ironic change in tone on the streets of Tegucigalpa, where leftist protesters now praise the U.S. (which backed right-wing putsches during the Cold War) and urge it to help them restore Zelaya. Officials, however, grumble that the world is unfairly against them. "Foreign governments misunderstand our situation," says Congressman Juan Orlando. "Once they learn that this was really a legal change of power, they will change their position."

Meanwhile, Venezuela's Chávez has promised to back Zelaya in his bid to return to power. Congressman Roberto Micheletti, recently sworn in as the new Honduran President, has vowed to arrest his predecessor if he sets foot in the country. With neither side backing down, the prospect of a violent clash worries many here. "All this mess could make the economic problems even worse," moans Daniel Joya, a 42-year-old shop owner. "If things fall apart, I will have to leave this country." ■





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USES

- NIASPAN® (niacin extended-release tablets) is a prescription medication used along with diet when a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol and other non-drug measures alone have not been successful.
- In patients with coronary artery disease and high cholesterol, niacin, in combination with a bile acid binding resin (colestipol, colestyramine), another cholesterol medication, has been shown to slow down or reduce atherosclerosis, the hardening of coronary arteries due to plaque buildup.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

- NIASPAN is not for everyone, including those with liver problems, stomach ulcers, or serious bleeding problems; and those allergic to any product ingredient.
- NIASPAN is a long-acting form of niacin. Severe liver damage can occur when switching to NIASPAN from immediate-release niacin. All forms of niacin are not the same as NIASPAN, so do not switch between forms of niacin without first talking to your health care professional.
- Tell your health care professional about any unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, as this could be a sign of a serious side effect. This risk may be increased when NIASPAN is taken with lovastatin or simvastatin, particularly in elderly patients and patients with diabetes, kidney problems, or thyroid problems.
- NIASPAN should be used with caution if you consume large amounts of alcohol. NIASPAN is associated with increases in liver enzymes measured by blood tests. Your health care professional may do blood tests before and during treatment with NIASPAN to check for liver problems.
- NIASPAN may cause an increase in blood sugar levels. If you have diabetes or higher than normal blood sugar levels, you should carefully check your blood sugar levels, especially during the first few months of NIASPAN and during any change in your dose. Report any changes in your blood sugar levels to your health care professional.
- NIASPAN should be used with caution in patients with kidney problems. Tell your health care professional if you have a history of gout or kidney problems.

Shouldn't you be trying something like this to help your heart's arteries?

Consider NIASPAN. For patients with high cholesterol and plaque in the arteries of the heart, NIASPAN, along with diet and another cholesterol medication (colestipol), is FDA-approved to not only slow down plaque buildup, but also help reduce the plaque that's already there¹.

You try to manage your cholesterol. You may have made changes to your diet and started exercising. But you still wonder, "Am I doing enough?" Ask your doctor about NIASPAN. In studies of up to 2.5 years, patients with high cholesterol and plaque buildup in the arteries of their heart, showed that NIASPAN, along with another cholesterol medication (colestipol), slowed down plaque buildup. In fact, for some patients, it actually helped reduce existing plaque.

NIASPAN is not for everyone, including those with liver problems, stomach ulcers, or serious bleeding problems; and those allergic to any product ingredient.

Ask your doctor if NIASPAN is right for you.

- The most common side effects include flushing, headache, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, increased cough, and itching.
- Flushing (warmth, redness, itching, and/or tingling of the skin) is a common side effect of niacin therapy that may subside after several weeks of consistent NIASPAN use. Additional symptoms may include rapid or pronounced heartbeat, shortness of breath, sweating, chills, dizziness, fainting, and/or swelling. Flushing may vary in severity and is more likely to occur with initiation of therapy, or during dose increases. By dosing at bedtime, flushing will most likely occur during sleep. However, if awakened by flushing at night, you should get up slowly, especially if feeling dizzy, feeling faint, or taking blood pressure medications.
- If you are taking another cholesterol medication called a bile acid binding resin (colestipol, cholestyramine) along with NIASPAN, take these medicines at least 4 to 6 hours apart.
- Some medicines should not be taken with NIASPAN. Tell your health care professional about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements, or other nutritional supplements containing niacin or nicotinamide. It is especially important to tell your health care professional if you take aspirin, any cholesterol medication, blood pressure medication, or anticoagulants, also known as blood thinners.

This is the most important information to know about NIASPAN. For more information, talk with your health care professional.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT NIASPAN (niacin extended-release tablets)¹

What is NIASPAN?

NIASPAN is a prescription medication used along with diet when a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol and other non-drug measures alone have not been successful.

NIASPAN is used to increase good (HDL) cholesterol and lower bad (LDL) cholesterol and triglycerides.

NIASPAN can be used in combination with lovastatin or simvastatin to improve cholesterol levels when taking NIASPAN, simvastatin or lovastatin alone is not enough.

NIASPAN is also used to reduce the risk of recurrent heart attacks in people with a history of heart attack and high cholesterol.

In patients with high cholesterol and coronary artery disease, NIASPAN, when used with a bile acid binding resin, another cholesterol medication, has been shown to slow down or reduce the build-up of plaque in your arteries.

No additional benefit of NIASPAN on heart disease has been demonstrated when used with simvastatin or lovastatin over and above that shown for niacin, simvastatin or lovastatin when used alone.

Who should not take NIASPAN?

Anyone who is allergic to niacin, the active ingredient in NIASPAN, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Contact your health care professional for a list of inactive ingredients.

Anyone who has stomach ulcers, liver problems or serious bleeding disorders.

What should I tell my health care professional before taking NIASPAN?

Tell your health care professional about any other medications, vitamins, or nutritional supplements you are taking including any that contain niacin or nicotinamide.

It is especially important to tell your doctor if you take:

- Aspirin
- A statin (another cholesterol medication)
 - The risk of muscle pain, tenderness or weakness, which could lead to a rare but serious side effect, is increased when NIASPAN is taken with a statin.
- A bile acid binding resin (colestipol, cholestyramine)
- Blood pressure medications
- Blood thinner medications

Tell your health care professional if you:

- Have a history of stomach ulcers, liver problems, kidney problems, or serious bleeding problems
- Have drug allergies
- Have diabetes
- Are pregnant or may become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Consume large amounts of alcohol

What are the possible side effects of NIASPAN?

All forms of niacin are not the same as NIASPAN. Do not switch between forms of niacin without first talking to your health care

professional. Severe liver damage can occur when switching to NIASPAN from immediate-release niacin.

Tell your health care professional about any unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, as this could be a sign of a rare but serious side effect. This risk may be increased when NIASPAN is taken with a statin.

NIASPAN is associated with increases in liver enzymes measured by blood tests. Your health care professional may do blood tests before and during treatment with NIASPAN to check for liver problems.

NIASPAN may cause an increase in blood sugar levels. If you have diabetes or higher than normal blood sugar levels, you should carefully check your blood sugar levels especially during the first few months of NIASPAN and during any change in your NIASPAN dose. Report any changes in blood sugar levels to your health care professional.

The most common side effects are flushing, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, increased cough, and itching.

Flushing:

Flushing (warmth, redness, itching and/or tingling of the skin) is a common side effect of NIASPAN therapy that may subside after several weeks of consistent NIASPAN use. Flushing may vary in severity and is more likely to occur with initiation of therapy or during dose increases. By dosing at bedtime, flushing will most likely occur during sleep. However, if awakened by flushing at night, you should get up slowly, especially if feeling dizzy, feeling faint, or taking blood pressure medications.

- Taking aspirin (up to the recommended dose of 325 mg) approximately 30 minutes before taking NIASPAN, as directed by a health care professional, may help manage flushing.
- Avoid ingestion of hot or alcoholic beverages and spicy foods around the time of taking NIASPAN to help manage flushing.
- Take NIASPAN with a low-fat snack at bedtime to help minimize upset stomach.

This safety information does not include all of the information people should know before taking NIASPAN. For a complete list of side effects, ask your health care professional.

General information about NIASPAN

Do not use NIASPAN for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give NIASPAN to other people, even if they have the same condition you have. This leaflet summarizes the most important information about NIASPAN. If you would like more information, talk to your health care professional.


For more information call Abbott at 1-888-5-NIASPAN (1-888-564-2772) or visit www.niaspan.com.

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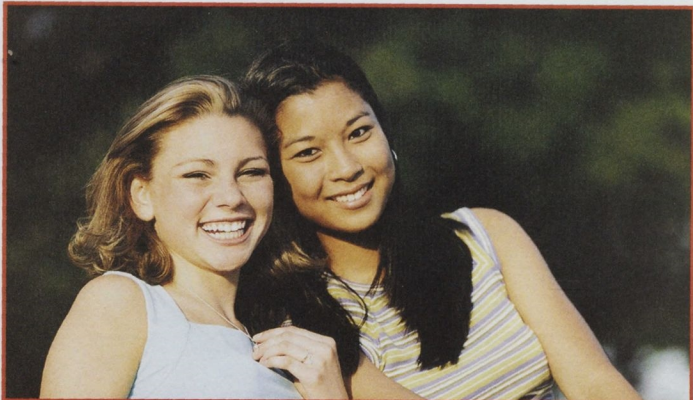
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Inbox



Raging in the Streets

REGARDING YOUR "IRAN VS. IRAN" COVER story [June 29]: I am an Iranian who wishes to convey to everyone who is fighting in Iran in a way we and our parents were not able to that we are humbled by the dedication you have displayed during the protests. Every night, Iranians have flooded the streets of Westwood, Los Angeles, wearing the colors of the campaign for freedom and carrying flags and candles. Children who have never played in the green pastures of Shomal have rallied among their parents holding pictures of those killed and flyers reading NEDA, WE WILL NEVER FORGET. You have done more for us than we could ever do for you. You have brought a community together: Jew or Muslim, we agree we are Iranian first, that our 7,000-year-old heritage and culture are housed on the same ancient dirt you are shedding your blood on. Your bravery will not be in vain. You've kindled a light in us that will not die out until your voices are heard and your votes counted.

Orly Minazad, LOS ANGELES

I WAS DISAPPOINTED JOE KLEIN SPENT ONLY 10 days in Iran, mostly in and around Tehran, and wrote a story speculating that nearly 50% of the Iranian people voted for Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. He should have talked to us Iranians who travel all over Iran and know how detested Ahmadinejad is in most jurisdictions. Please talk to more

Iranians; you'll see that they overwhelmingly support a pro-Western, democratic government and not the rule of force and dark obscurantism.

Dariusz Adle, LOS ANGELES

Hard Data on Health Reform

RE YOUR STORY ON BARACK OBAMA'S PLAN for health-care reform [June 29]: I am embarrassed that my Senators, Jon Kyl and John McCain, are fighting so hard to maintain the status quo on health care and health insurance. Their employer, the U.S. government, is the single payer in their system, but if the rest of us were to get exactly the same coverage, it would be—*gasp!*—Socialized Medicine. I have to assume these gentlemen have no idea what it would cost to replace their coverage, given their ages and pre-existing conditions, in the free market they admire so much.

David Kelly, TUCSON, ARIZ.

PUNISHING THE MAYO CLINIC FINANCIALLY for efficiently and effectively providing Medicare services is just one failing of our health-care system. Attempts to lower Medicare costs, even those now under consideration, focus on lower fees—a maneuver well known to increase the number of services, many unneeded, and actually increase total costs. Truly effective care can be delivered only by integrated, cohesive, properly incentivized, Mayo-like multispecialty medical groups with strong

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

■ A caption in a story on President Obama's health-reform plan misstated the name of a Mayo Clinic patient; it is Kathy Anhalt [June 29].

■ In a story on mental illness, a statistic—80% of those who meet criteria for early signs of illness end up with a diagnosis of schizophrenia within 30 months—should have been credited to a study by Dr. Thomas McGlashan at Yale [June 22].

leadership and a commitment to quality. Unfortunately, legislation pending in Congress ignores this need.

Charles V. Allen, M.D., MODESTO, CALIF.

YOU LEFT OUT THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: the patient. Most of what we do in health care now is treat diseases of lifestyle, including lack of exercise and unhealthy eating. We need more than mere reform; we need to restructure our priorities.

Charles J. Huebner, M.D., PETOSKEY, MICH.

ABOUT 38% OF ADULTS NOW USE SOME form of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). Any health-care debate should include the potential benefits of integrating evidence-based CAM into conventional medicine.

Joel Christie, BELLEAIR BLUFFS, FLA.

Tweetin' About a Revolution

RE "THE MOMENT" ON TWITTER IN IRAN [June 29]: I don't tweet. But I do find it interesting that just two weeks after TIME's cover story on Twitter's influence—and this week's mainly skeptical readers' feedback—we witness what many are calling the Twitter Revolution in Iran. At least during these tumultuous times, Twitter has proved to be an invaluable communication tool that has kept the rest of the world informed about and connected to the brave protesters in Iran.

Major Dorian de Win (ret.), AUSTIN, TEXAS

"Sandra Bullock and her movie choices make a lot of us happy. The Proposal was fun and engaging throughout. Can't that be enough?"

Patrice Jobe, PARKVILLE, MO.

Force of nature Some fans disagreed with TIME's June 29 review of Bullock's résumé



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Briefing

THE WORLD SPOTLIGHT VERBATIM HISTORY

MILESTONES



The Moment

6/30/09: Baghdad

THE DECISION TO PULL U.S. troops out of Iraq's cities by June 30 was made by Iraqis, not Americans. That's why the Iraqi government held a massive celebration to mark the redeployment of forces as National Sovereignty Day. Now Iraqi citizens and U.S. troops hovering in the countryside are holding their breath, watching to see if Iraq can protect itself.

Most U.S. forces have, in fact, been out of Iraq's urban areas for weeks, corralled into large

rural bases. But until recently, they had continued to patrol the two largest cities plagued by ongoing violence—Baghdad and Mosul. Now residents will no longer see U.S. troops rumbling along their boulevards in heavy armored vehicles, a persistent and painful reminder of Iraq's dependency on foreigners for its security. "We feel confident in the Iraqi forces continuing the process of taking over the security tasks in their own country," said General David Petraeus,

commander of all U.S. forces in the Middle East, on June 29.

Iraqis, for their part, didn't wait for the withdrawal to take effect before beginning their celebrations, with patriotic songs blaring from police and military outposts as Iraqi

After six years of combat, U.S. troops are pulling out of all Iraqi cities

operated military vehicles cruised the streets. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has hailed the U.S. pullout from urban areas as a "great victory" that frees the nation from foreign occupiers. But in a sign of the challenge that will face

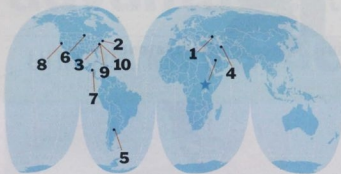
his forces, 437 Iraqis, including 372 civilians, died in June, the bloodiest month in a year.

It's too early to know if those attacks are leading indicators of a resumption of the civil war or a nihilistic lashing out by the losing side. Some in the Pentagon and Iraq believe the aim of the bombing campaign is to show Iraqis that al-Maliki and his security forces are unable to protect them—few recent attacks have targeted U.S. troops. But one thing is clear. Iraq began as America's war, George W. Bush's war. Today, for better or worse, ownership of it has passed not to Barack Obama but to Nouri al-Maliki and the government of Iraq.

—BY MARK THOMPSON

The World

10 ESSENTIAL STORIES



1 | Russia

This Is Just A Test

Russia has deployed 8,500 troops, 200 tanks and a number of artillery units to the Caucasus region near the Georgian border for a weeklong session of war games expected to be the biggest since its clash with Georgia last year. Russia admits that the exercises—which are scheduled to end on July 6, the day President Obama arrives for his first official visit to Moscow—are “quite major” but says they’re simply for practice. Tbilisi is worried they presage another attack similar to last summer’s skirmish over the breakaway region of South Ossetia. Georgia has readied its armed forces in the event of another Russian invasion.

2 | New York City

Madoff Loses His Shirt ... and Cuff Links

On June 29, a judge sentenced swindler Bernie Madoff to 150 years in prison for perpetrating a \$65 billion Ponzi scheme. Meanwhile, federal marshals prepared to seize assets from the disgraced financier and his wife to reimburse victims. While Ruth Madoff will get to keep \$2.5 million in cash, the couple handed over everything from a \$39,000 Steinway piano to a \$25 pair of cuff links.

Madoff assets up for grabs



Real estate in New York and Florida
\$22 million



Everything in their homes
\$3.9 million



Ruth's two mink coats
\$48,500



Jewelry
\$2.6 million



Art collection
\$2.5 million



Municipal bonds and securities worth
\$46.7 million and
\$13.5 million in cash



Yachts
value undisclosed

SOURCE: U.S. DISTRICT COURT—SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK DOCUMENT

3 | Washington

A Ruling on Race

In the most anticipated case on its docket, the U.S. Supreme Court sided with a group of white and Hispanic firefighters who sued after their passing scores on a promotion exam were thrown out because black applicants performed poorly on the test. The workplace-discrimination case, *Ricci v. DeStefano*, had drawn intense scrutiny because Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor had come to the opposite conclusion while sitting on a federal appeals court. The narrow 5-4 ruling, issued on the final day of the term, found that officials in New Haven, Conn., relied too heavily on “raw racial results” in deciding to toss the test rather than on evidence that the exam was flawed. A dissent argued that the city reasonably feared a discrimination lawsuit and noted a history of bias in firefighting.

4 | Tehran

Sore Winner

Iran's Guardian Council has officially confirmed the re-election of hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, following a recount of some 10% of the ballots cast in the country's disputed June 12 election. Tehran has warned that it won't tolerate further protests; the harsh government crackdown has killed as many as 20 people and caused Iran's worst unrest since the 1979 Islamic revolution. The formal results were met with skepticism abroad. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the U.S. has not decided whether to recognize Ahmadinejad's victory, noting that the protests have underscored the theocracy's “credibility gap” with its own people.



The Kirchners appear at a campaign rally in Buenos Aires on June 25

5 | Argentina

A Setback for the First Couple

María Belén Chapur isn't the only Argentine woman having a rough week. President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner suffered a major political blow when the ruling Peronist Party, led by her husband Néstor Kirchner, went down to defeat in midterm congressional elections. Néstor, a former President who rescued Argentina from the brink of economic ruin, resigned as party leader after the vote, which was seen as a referendum on the couple's handling of farm strikes and the sagging economy.

Numbers:

15%

Percentage of U.S. teenagers who expect to die young, according to a survey of 20,000 teens

44%

Percentage of Mississippi children who are overweight or obese—the highest in the U.S., according to a recent study



6 | Minnesota

AT LONG LAST, A WINNER Nearly eight months, 2.4 million votes, a recount, two appeals and \$50 million in election spending is all it took to get Al Franken elected U.S. Senator from Minnesota. The longest race in the state's history came to an end when the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled unanimously for the former comedian, giving him the win by 312 votes. In the end, GOP incumbent Norm Coleman conceded gracefully, saying, "The future today is... Al Franken." The belated victory gives Democrats a filibuster-proof majority of 60 votes just as the Senate is expected to tackle the confirmation of Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor and health-care reform.

7 | Honduras

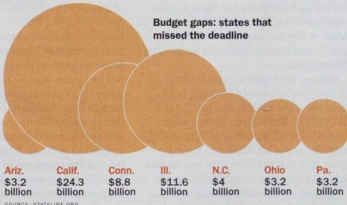
Contested Coup

After being spirited from the country in a June 28 coup that sparked protests both for and against his rule in Tegucigalpa, the capital, Honduran President Manuel Zelaya addressed the U.N. General Assembly to argue for his reinstatement. While coup leaders say Zelaya's removal was lawful, the U.N., the Organization of American States and the White House are lobbying for his return and for a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

8 | Sacramento

A Race Against Time to Make Ends Meet

In the hours before a July 1 deadline to pass budgets for the 2010 fiscal year, lawmakers in 10 states scrambled to make up for billion-dollar shortfalls by proposing everything from taxing cell-phone ring tones to closing state parks. While Mississippi, Indiana and Delaware made the cutoff, others did not. Ohio and Connecticut will keep the lights on without an official budget in place, while California, which faces a \$24 billion deficit, announced plans to issue IOUs until representatives can resolve a legislative stalemate.



9 | Washington

Relief on Student Loans

In a rare piece of welcome news for students struggling to pay for college, the Federal Government is offering a loan-repayment plan that reduces monthly bills for graduates who take home thinner paychecks. The new policy is accompanied by an interest-rate reduction on new federal subsidized Stafford loans, which will drop from 6% to 3.4% by 2012. Students who work in public service can have the balance of their loans forgiven after 10 years.

Low-income students get smaller bills

ANNUAL STUDENT DEBT	INCOME	MONTHLY PAYMENT
\$23,186	\$20,000	\$45
NEW INTEREST RATE 5.6%	\$25,000	\$110
	\$30,000	\$170
	\$35,000	\$235
	\$40,000	does not qualify

SOURCE: FINAID.ORG, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

10 | Washington

Obama to Gays: I Haven't Forgotten You

Amid complaints of campaign promises left unfulfilled, President Obama invited hundreds of gay and lesbian leaders to the White House on June 29 to assure them that their concerns remain a priority. Activists have voiced frustration that Obama has not overturned the military's "Don't ask, don't tell" policy or done more to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. One participant said the event bought Obama more time, "but he'll have to deliver."

★ | What They're

Quitting in Saudi Arabia:

In the first antismoking drive of its kind, a Riyadh-based charity is giving prospective groomsmen who complete a seven-day smoking-cessation course the chance to win an all-expenses-paid wedding in an Aug. 6 drawing. The campaign's slogan? "Kicking the habit is on you, and marriage is on us."

300,000

Estimated number of jobs lost after Russia banned casinos and gambling halls from major cities as part of an anticorruption campaign

1:7.5

Ratio of whites to blacks stopped by Paris transit cops from November 2007 to May 2008, according to an ethnic-profiling study

Spotlight:

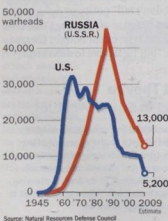
Obama in Moscow



TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE

1 Franklin D. Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin, 1945 2 Richard Nixon and Leonid Brezhnev, 1972 3 Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, 1988 4 Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin, 1994 5 George W. Bush and Vladimir Putin, 2002 6 Barack Obama and Dmitri Medvedev, 2009

Nuclear-Weapons Stockpiles



NATO Looks East

Former Warsaw Pact member in NATO
Former Soviet state considered for NATO membership

Obama and Medvedev met to discuss U.S.-Russia relations in London in April

Defense University's Institute for National Strategic Studies. Similarly, NATO's eastward expansion into Russia's "near abroad"—the territory of the old Soviet Union—rankles in Moscow, particularly the possibility of membership for Georgia and Ukraine, two democracies that enjoy shared values and strategic interests with the U.S. Both Obama and Medvedev have expressed eagerness to forge a successor to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which expires this year. But Medvedev has said nuclear-weapons reductions are possible only if the U.S. drops plans to expand its missile-defense shield into Eastern Europe.

Obama's main challenge during his trip, however, will be to get the measure of Russia's two rulers—particularly Medvedev. The Russian President has long been seen as a cipher for Putin, but he is the first of Russia's modern leaders never to have served as an official in the Soviet Union, and he has been showing some signs of independence from his former boss. Russians opposed to Putin dearly want Obama to help Medvedev distance himself from his mentor's ironfisted policies. It may, of course, be wishful thinking to believe that Medvedev can ever really be his own man, much less that he can put aside decades of suspicion and forge a real partnership with the U.S. But it's worth a try. For this truth hasn't changed since the Cold War: when Russia and the U.S. don't get along, the rest of the world has every right to feel uneasy.

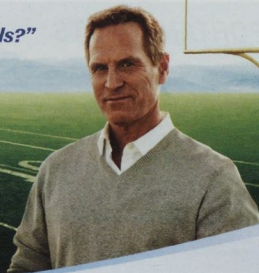
—BY BOBBY GHOSH

SUMMITS BETWEEN THE LEADERS who live in the White House and the Kremlin once transfixed the world, as competing superpowers, ideologies and worldviews clashed. But when Barack Obama visits Moscow on July 6, it will for the President be something of a rarity: a rather dull trip. He will encounter no cheering crowds. His hosts, Russian President Dmitri Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, will be no more than coolly polite. Yet between them—lest we forget—they own enough firepower to blow us all to kingdom come. The Cold War may have ended nearly 20 years ago, but the way the U.S. and Russia deal with each other still matters.

Nearly a year after a bitter falling-out over Russia's war in Georgia, both sides now want a stable and predictable relationship. But neither knows where to start. "There's a lot of head-scratching going on," says Coit Blacker, a Russia expert at Stanford University and former adviser to the Clinton Administration.

On core issues, the two countries remain apart. Russia has mostly looked the other way during Iran's postelection chaos and, unlike the U.S., doesn't view Iran's nuclear program as a major threat. "They don't want it, but think it's going to happen anyway," says Eugene Rumer, a senior fellow at the National

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In a clinical study of patients with slightly elevated blood pressure and cholesterol, **Caduet helped 48% reach both goals in just 4 weeks.** Not all patients will reach their blood pressure and cholesterol goals. Individual results will vary.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Caduet is a prescription drug that combines 2 medicines, Norvasc and Lipitor. Norvasc is used to treat high blood pressure (hypertension), chest pain (angina) or blocked arteries of the heart (coronary artery disease); Lipitor is used along with diet and exercise to lower high cholesterol. It is also used to lower the risk of heart attack and stroke in people with multiple risk factors for heart disease such as family history, high blood pressure, age, low HDL-C, or smoking.

Caduet is not for everyone. It is not for those with liver problems. And it is not for women who are nursing, are pregnant, or may become pregnant. If you take Caduet, tell

your doctor if you feel any new muscle pain or weakness. This could be a sign of rare but serious muscle side effects. Tell your doctor about all of the medicines you take. This may help avoid serious drug interactions. Your doctor should do blood tests to check your liver function before and during treatment and may adjust your dose. If you have any heart problems, be sure to tell your doctor. The most common side effects are edema, headache, and dizziness. They tend to be mild and often go away.

Caduet can be used alone or with other high blood pressure medicines. Caduet is one of many options for treating high blood pressure and high cholesterol, in addition to diet and exercise, that you or your doctor can consider.

Please see the accompanying patient information on the following page.

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Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

IMPORTANT FACTS



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High blood pressure and high cholesterol are more than just numbers. They are risk factors that should not be ignored. If your doctor said you have high blood pressure and high cholesterol, you may be at an increased risk for heart attack or stroke. But the good news is, you can take steps to lower your blood pressure and cholesterol.

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WHO IS CADUET FOR?

Who can take CADUET:

- Adults who need to lower their blood pressure AND who cannot lower their cholesterol enough with diet and exercise

Who should NOT take CADUET:

- Women who are pregnant, may be pregnant, or may become pregnant. CADUET may harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant, stop CADUET and call your doctor right away.
- Women who are breast-feeding. CADUET can pass into your breast milk and may harm your baby.
- People with liver problems
- People allergic to anything in CADUET

BEFORE YOU START CADUET

Tell your doctor:

- About all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements
- If you ever had heart disease
- If you have muscle aches or weakness
- If you drink more than 2 glasses of alcohol daily
- If you have diabetes or kidney problems
- If you have thyroid problems

ABOUT CADUET

CADUET is a prescription medicine that combines Norvasc[®] (amlodipine besylate) for high blood pressure and Lipitor[®] (atorvastatin calcium) for high cholesterol in one pill. CADUET, along with diet and exercise, treats both high blood pressure (hypertension) and high cholesterol. CADUET can lower the risk of heart attack or stroke in patients with risk factors for heart disease—such as heart disease in the family, high blood pressure, being older than 55, having low HDL-C, diabetes, or smoking.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF CADUET

Serious side effects in a small number of people:

Muscle problems that can lead to kidney problems. This includes kidney failure. You have a higher chance for muscle problems if you take certain other medicines with CADUET.

Liver problems. Your doctor may do blood tests to check your liver before you start CADUET and while you are taking it.

Symptoms of muscle or liver problems include:

- Unexplained muscle weakness or pain, especially if you have a fever or feel very tired
 - Nausea, vomiting, or stomach pain
 - Brown or dark-colored urine
 - Feeling more tired than usual
 - Your skin and the whites of your eyes turn yellow
- If you have these symptoms, call your doctor right away.

Chest pain. Sometimes chest pain that does not go away or gets worse or a heart attack can happen. If this happens, call your doctor or go to the emergency room right away.

Common side effects of CADUET include:

- headache
- constipation
- swelling of legs or ankles
- gas
- feeling dizzy
- upset stomach and stomach pain

These side effects are usually mild and go away. There are other side effects of CADUET. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a complete list.

HOW TO TAKE CADUET

Do:

- Take CADUET once a day as prescribed by your doctor.
- Try to eat heart-healthy foods while you take CADUET.
- Take CADUET at any time of day, with or without food.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. But if it has been more than 12 hours since your missed dose, wait. Take the next dose at your regular time.

Don't:

- Do not break CADUET tablets before taking them.
- Do not stop taking nitroglycerin, if you take it for angina.
- Do not change or stop your dose before talking with your doctor.
- Do not start new medicines or stop any medicines you are taking before talking to the doctor.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

- Ask your doctor, health-care provider, or pharmacist. This is only a summary of the most important information.
- Go to www.caduet.com or call (866) 514-0900.

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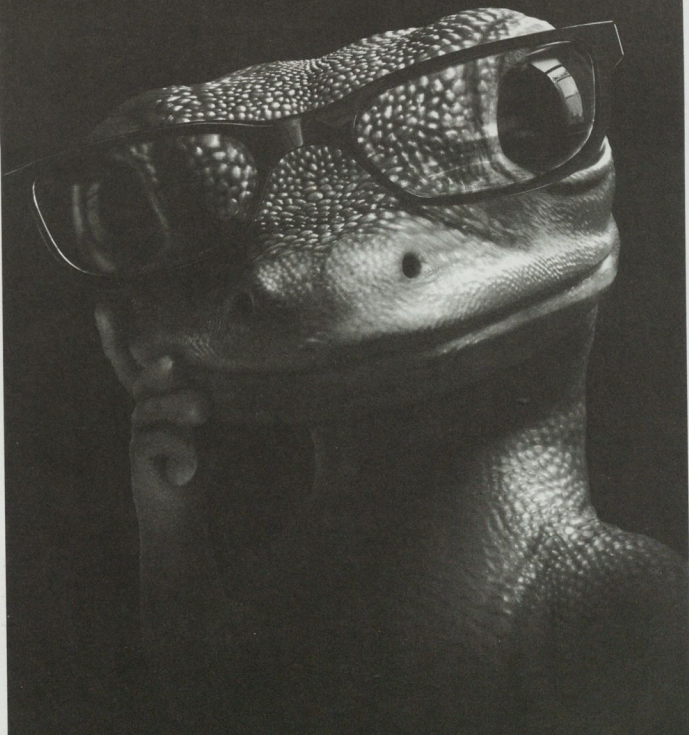
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GEICO



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Average savings amount based on national GEICO New Policyholder survey data through February 2009. As of December 31, 2008 Government Employees Insurance Company had admitted assets of \$162.5 billion, and policyholder surplus of \$41 billion (including \$33.4 million in paid up capital stock). Total liabilities were \$1.4 billion, including \$77 billion in reserves. Additional financial information is available at <http://www.geico.com/about/corporate/financial-information>. Customer satisfaction based on an independent study conducted by Alan Newman Research, 2008. Some discounts, coverages, payment plans, and features are not available in all states or in all GEICO companies. Motorcycle and ATV coverages are underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company, Best, PWC, Homeowner's, Renters's, Flood and Fire Life coverages are written through non-affiliated insurance companies and are secured through the GEICO Insurance Agency Inc. Government Employees Insurance Co. • GEICO General Insurance Co. • GEICO Indemnity Co. • GEICO Casualty Co. These companies are subsidiaries of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. GEICO® Washington, DC 20076. © 2008 GEICO. GEICO Washington, DC 20076. GEICO Gecko image © 1999 - 2008. © 2008 GEICO



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Verbatim

'This was a whole lot more than a simple affair. This was a love story.'

MARK SANFORD, South Carolina governor, on his relationship with an Argentine woman he considers his "soul mate"; Sanford says he is "trying" to fall back in love with his wife, at right

'She didn't feel a thing.'

KASSIM BAKARI, on his 14-year-old daughter Bahia, the only passenger to survive the crash of a Yemeni airliner in the Indian Ocean; 152 others are presumed dead

'I want to make this statement. This is a real good statement here: Marshall and I—we own a record company.'

JOE JACKSON, plugging his new business venture during an interview about the death of his son, pop icon Michael Jackson

'It is a thousand more times more likely that I am stupid than I am racist.'

CURTIS COLEMAN, a U.S. Senate hopeful from Arkansas, apologizing for saying that people traveling to the southeastern part of the state "might as well get a visa and some shots"

'We understand your desire to trade white marble for White Mountains.'

JOHN ROBERTS, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, bidding farewell to Justice David Souter, who left the bench on June 29

'I don't think it is a good idea.'

DR. RICHARD JARVIS, chairman of the British Medical Association's public-health committee, on reports that Britons are hosting "swine-flu parties" in an attempt to build immunity to the virus

'People wanted bigger weddings, newer carriages ... They were buying things they didn't need.'

MERVIN LEHMAN, an Amish father of four, on why his community in Indiana is struggling financially



Back & Forth:

Medicine

'We're here because there are inadvertent overdoses with this drug that are fatal.'



DR. JUDITH KRAMER, an expert on a Food and Drug Administration panel that recommended banning painkillers like Vicodin and Percocet and reducing the maximum dosage of Tylenol because the products contain acetaminophen, a drug associated with liver damage

'More people will be suffering.'

DR. SEAN MACKEY, chief of pain management at the Stanford University School of Medicine, saying the agency's recommendation would burden physicians and patients and lead to higher health-care costs

Politics

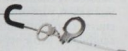
'We don't want to change history. We want to add to it.'

JOSEPH ALMEIDA, a Rhode Island state representative, on a referendum to cut the second part of the state's official name—Rhode Island and Providence Plantations—which calls to mind the colony's role in the slave trade

'They're trying to be revisionist, and revisionism doesn't work. All this is going to do is divide people, not bring them together.'

ALFRED GEMMA, one of three representatives opposed to the measure, arguing that formally amending the state's name would be "like tearing down our history"

LEXICON



Silver crime *n.*—Offenses committed by the elderly

USAGE: "A group of well-to-do pensioners who lost their savings in the credit crunch staged an arthritic revenge attack and held their terrified financial adviser to ransom [in] the latest example of what is being dubbed 'silver crime'—the violent backlash of pensioners who feel cheated by the world."

—Times of London, June 24, 2009

A Brief History Of:

Affirmative Action



THE U.S. SUPREME COURT'S RULING THAT NEW HAVEN, Conn., violated 20 white and Hispanic firefighters' rights by scrapping a promotions test that few black candidates passed leaves city officials in a bind. Lose the test and you punish those who aced it. Keep it and you risk leaving intact a lack of diversity at the fire department's senior levels.

The case, *Ricci v. DeStefano*, is renewing debate over affirmative action, not least because it reverses a judgment signed off on by Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor. But the controversy over such programs goes back decades. It was President Lyndon Johnson who first attempted to combat inequality with laws taking race, ethnicity and gender into account. In a 1965 speech at Howard University, he argued that one could not expect a person "who, for years, has been hobbled by chains" to be able to compete with everyone else. Since then, supporters have praised the employment and education opportunities affirmative action has given minority candidates, while opponents have blasted it for taking those opportunities away from equally deserving whites.

The court has long walked a fine line on the issue, rolling back some affirmative-action initiatives and supporting others. In 1978 it agreed that race-based quotas in university admissions amounted to "reverse discrimination." And concurring in 1995's *Adarand Constructors Inc. v. Peña*, which called for "strict scrutiny" in identifying discrimination to justify affirmative-action programs, Justice Clarence Thomas argued that such policies "stamp minorities with a badge of inferiority." Trying to balance competing concerns has tripped up employers and admissions officers for decades. In the wake of the *Ricci* ruling, it will be even trickier. —BY LAURA FITZPATRICK

A blow for (or against) equality

Firefighter Frank Ricci and the rest of the "New Haven 20" celebrate their court win

NOT BLACK-AND-WHITE



1941 FDR bans racist hiring practices after black defense workers' discontent threatens war effort

discontent threatens war effort

1961 JFK coins the term affirmative action

1964 The Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion or national origin. Gender is added by Executive Order in 1967

1978 Supreme Court strikes down race-based quotas in *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*

2003 The court finds a University of Michigan race-based acceptance program unconstitutional, but "use of race in admissions decisions is not prohibited"

THE SKIMMER



Packing the Court: The Rise of Judicial Power and The Coming Crisis of the Supreme Court

By James MacGregor Burns
Penguin; 326 pages

"PRESIDENTS COME AND go," observed former President and Chief Justice William Howard Taft, "but the Supreme Court goes on forever." That prospect troubles historian James MacGregor Burns, whose 15th book is a provocative assault on the "imperial" court and its tightening grip on governmental power. Unaccountable Justices have seized the right to overturn acts of Congress—an authority not found in the Constitution—and increasingly thwart the popular will, Burns argues. From blocking Reconstruction-era civil rights to slowing the New Deal, the court's pro-business ideologues have time and again created "a chokepoint for progressive reforms." More recently, the divisive *Bush v. Gore* ruling and far-right Roberts Court offer Burns little comfort. His partisan analysis will have dissenters, but Burns' elegant volume merits attention for its depth and scope, even if his radical solutions—including ignoring court rulings—would prompt a crisis all their own.

—BY RANDY JAMES

READ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SKIM	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOSS	<input type="checkbox"/>

Milestones



Farrah Fawcett

THE 1970S NEEDED FARRAH Fawcett. Bad news, from Watergate to soaring gas prices, had the nation in need of a tonic, and it came in the trim form of a Texas blonde with a no-quit smile. Fawcett, who on June 25 died at 62 after a long battle with cancer, was an alluring antidote to a decade's gloom.

Before becoming the breakout babe of *Charlie's Angels* in 1976, Fawcett was most visible as an icon of TV commercials and the wife of future Six Million Dollar Man Lee Majors. Photographers had a lot to work with: Farrah had immaculate Chiclet teeth, honey-glazed arms and a wild mane that gave rise to the rumor that a lion at the San Diego Zoo had been secretly scalped.

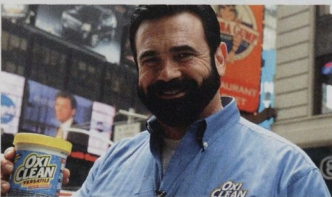
A throwback to pinup girls of an earlier era, she became the decade's premier poster girl, with 8 million copies reportedly sold in a single year. The number of baby girls named Farrah spiked; hairdos went Fawcett-feral. Some women might shrink from the fame tsunami, but Fawcett expertly surfed it like a monster wave.

When Farrah mania faded, she

changed careers and became a fine actress. For much of the 1980s, Fawcett was the monarch of TV-movie biopics, earning an Emmy (her first of three) as an abused woman in 1984's *The Burning Bed*. In later years, she occasionally emerged into notoriety, as in her apparently addled 1997 interview with David Letterman. After divorcing Majors in 1982, she was battered by a boyfriend, and endured a mostly on-again 25-year relationship with the legendarily truculent Ryan O'Neal.

Any actress can find an arc of redemption through suffering, and Farrah put her battle with cancer to worthy use by becoming an activist. She was no longer the Golden Girl, but she lived—and died—with weight, value and an exemplary glow.

—BY RICHARD CORLISS



Billy Mays

BILLY MAYS KNEW HOW TO sell. He was the consummate pitchman, rising from boardwalks to state fairs to short-form direct-response ads. By the time he died of heart disease on June 28 at 50, he was on television more than 400 times a week. To an aspiring inventor or an entrepreneur, his oratory was the difference between a

pipe dream and a blockbuster.

With his trademark beard and booming voice, Billy conquered the challenge of selling more than a product to the consumer. Billy sold Billy. Many of his wares had been around in some form for 50 years, but Billy breathed new life into

them. It didn't matter whether he was hawking steamers or adhesive putty or his Oxi-Clean brand.

Billy was first inspired to learn the art of the pitch after enjoying a Ginsu-knife demonstration on an Atlantic City, N.J., boardwalk. He realized that an eye-to-eye pitch has to be honest and salable to the core. It was this skill—along with verbal agility, stamina and likability—that he used to get consumers to buy products they never knew they needed. He carried the torch for vintage pitchmen, and I had hoped that he would continue to do so for a new generation. But his pitch was cut short far too soon.

—BY RON POPEIL



Popeil is an inventor and a pioneer of the infomercial

DIED For more than 30 years, **Antonio Blanco, 57,**

worked as a master cutter in New York City's Diamond District, crafting some of the largest and rarest stones in the world. One



of his gems, dubbed the Dream, is a 100-carat yellow diamond valued at upwards of \$20 million.

■ They called him Mr. Everybody, and with his ability to mimic hundreds of famous voices—from Jack Nicholson's to Bugs Bunny's—**Fred Travalena, 66,** lived up to the name. For over 25 years, he headlined shows in Las Vegas; Reno, Nev.; and Atlantic City, N.J.

■ **Pina Bausch, 68,** irked traditionalists with her modern style, but fans lauded the German dancer and choreographer as a ballet pioneer. She died just days after receiving a cancer diagnosis.

■ In 1952 actress **Gale Storm, 87,** transitioned from movies to television with *My Little Margie*, a summer replacement for *I*



Love Lucy. A talented singer and radio personality, Storm earned three stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

■ French immunologist **Jean Dausset, 92,** shared the 1980 Nobel Prize for Medicine for his discovery of the tissue system that determines a person's response to a transplanted organ. The breakthrough allowed surgeons to ascertain whether a body would reject or accept donor tissue.

BACK AT WORK Apple CEO **Steve Jobs,**

54, returned to the company after taking a six-month medical leave. In June a Tennessee hospital confirmed that Jobs, a cancer survivor, had received a liver transplant during his time away from the office.





James

Poniewozik

Paging Dr. Obama. The President takes to the air to sell his health-care fix, but it's TV's med shows that really feel our pain

ON JUNE 24, ABC DEBUTED A CONTROVERSIAL new medical drama: *Barack Obama, M.D.* Actually titled *Questions for the President: Prescription for America*, the town-hall forum sat the POTUS down to field questions about his plans to overhaul the health-care system. Before it aired, Republicans criticized it as an infomercial that would allow Obama to sell his platform to a vast prime-time audience.

That critique turned out to be off on two counts. The questions—from an audience including a former Bush Medicare official and the CEO of Aetna—focused mostly on the worries of the already insured about what would happen to their choice and coverage. More important, the special drew a mere 4.7 million viewers, barely half as many as NBC's earlier *Inside the White House*, in which Brian Williams ate burgers with the President and petted First Dog Bo.

In prime time, it seems, the medical issues that score with audiences are, Does *Isis* survive? And will House hook up with Cuddy? As Obama rolls out his reform plans, the networks are rolling out a slew of new medical shows—which just may do more to shape views of medicine than Charlie Gibson ever could.

TV doctor series have long been enmeshed with politics. In the 1960s the American Medical Association—which was vehemently fighting Medicare—signed off on *Dr. Kildare* and *Ben Casey* scripts, seeking to promote a positive image of status quo medicine. (By the 1970s, doctors complained that Marcus Welby was too unrealistically wonderful.)

Most doctor shows depict a medical system in which the technology is amazing but access is terrifying and sometimes random

As HMOs spread and the ranks of the uninsured grew, however, TV handed out fewer lollipops to the medical profession. In 1994, at the peak of the Clinton health-care fight, NBC announced *ER*, on which overwhelmed County General hospital treated the underinsured masses who didn't have access to preventive medicine. As Anthony Edwards reminisced to the *New York Times*, "It was the beginning



of the era when the emergency room became primary care."

There have been many doctor series since then—*Scrubs*, *House*, *Grey's Anatomy*. But several new medical shows focus instead on the nurses and paramedics who provide so much actual hands-on care in the age of overscheduled M.D.s. In these shows, saving patients is a chaotic, bureaucracy-plagued process—when it happens at all.

On Showtime's *Nurse Jackie*, Edie Falco's title character runs up against a hospital administration that wants to wring every possible dime out of patients. "All Saints [Hospital] is in the business of flipping beds," Jackie tells a colleague. "That's it. End of story. The fact that you have even the slightest inclination to help people puts you miles ahead of 100% of the population." (In real life, Falco is a health-care

reform activist.) Jada Pinkett Smith also plays an overworked nurse taking on bureaucracy, on TNT's *Hawthorne*. On NBC's fall drama *Trauma* (not to be confused with CBS's *Miami Trauma*), a supervisor warns a paramedic not to let a mother assist with her son's emergency tracheotomy: "It's a lawsuit waiting to happen!"

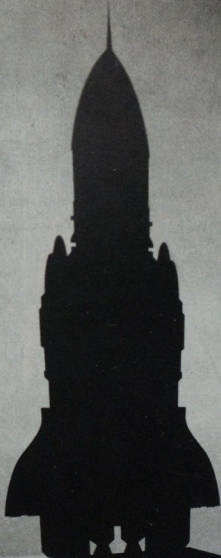
Even USA Network's escapist *Royal Pains* has a class-conscious premise. Idealistic Dr. Hank Lawson gets fired when he chooses to save a young patient's life before treating a hospital board member. He takes a job as a "concierge doctor" to rich summer people in New York's Hamptons, treating everything from hemophilia to deflated breast implants. It's fluff, but with a theme of modern medical feudalism: top docs attending the richest like courtiers. If your hospital waiting room has cable, watch it sometime!

In all, prime time depicts a medical system in which the technology is amazing but access is terrifying and sometimes random. *Nurse Jackie*, *Hawthorne* and NBC midseason nurse drama *Mercy* present nurses butting heads with doctors who demand incorrect treatments, with dangerous or fatal results.

Still, medical TV is in a sense idealized. Whereas *ER* and *St. Elsewhere* were set at cash-strapped urban hospitals, TV now prefers upscale settings. Patients generally get well, and you don't see them bankrupted by bills. (If you really want to make a show about the insurance crisis, set it at a repo agency.)

These ideal images, though, may only make people more critical when real-life care doesn't measure up. CBS's fall debut *Three Rivers*, set at an elite transplant center, could underscore our luck-of-the-draw access to lifesaving resources. Or it could remind viewers of the top-shelf procedures that Obama's critics say will be threatened by "socialized" solutions.

One thing Obama may have going for him is timing. In 1994, *ER* made it on air just as the Clinton plan was declared dead. This time the politics and the programming are in sync. Now to see if the U.S. is a country truly ready for health-care change, or if it just plays one on TV. ■



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3G not available in all areas. Coverage is not available in all areas. See coverage map at stores for details. **Limited-time offer.** Other conditions & restrictions apply. See contract & rate plan brochure for details. Subscriber must live & have a mailing addr. within AT&T's owned wireless network coverage area. Up to \$36 activ. fee applies. Equipment price & avail may vary by mkt & may not be available from independent retailers. **Early Termination Fee:** None if cancelled in the first 30 days, but up to \$20 restocking fee may apply to equipment returns; thereafter up to \$175. Some agents impose add'l fees. **AT&T Promotion Card:** Card request must be postmarked by 10/31/09 & you must be a customer for 30 consecutive days to receive card. **Sales tax** calculated based on price of unactivated equipment. Speed and Power claim based on device's processor and internal RAM. ©2009 AT&T Intellectual Property. Service provided by AT&T Mobility. All rights reserved. AT&T, the AT&T logo, and all other marks contained herein are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property and/or AT&T affiliated companies. All other marks contained herein are the property of their respective owners.

Jeff and Lisa were lost when it came to sightseeing...

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Justin

Fox

Extra Money

To read Justin Fox's daily take on business and the economy, go to time.com/curiouscapitalist

Let Someone Else Buy. Why the rise of Brazil, India and China (and the relative decline of the U.S.) isn't bad news

ONLY TWO OF THE WORLD'S 15 BIGGEST economies are expected to grow in 2009: China's and India's. Brazil's government still thinks it can eke out positive growth for the year too, although outside forecasters don't quite buy it. Let's call these three countries the BICs. BRIC—for Brazil, Russia, India, China—is the better-known acronym, coined in 2001 by Goldman Sachs chief economist Jim O'Neill as shorthand for the globe's emerging economic giants. In mid-June, leaders of the four BRICs even held their first summit meeting. But Russia, a resource-rich land with an otherwise feeble economy and a shrinking population, is in a different boat from its BRIC brethren. It's having a horrible year, with the World Bank predicting that its GDP will contract 7.9%, worse than that of any other top-15 economy.

Before the financial panic of last fall, many business and government leaders in the BRIC countries spoke confidently of "decoupling" from their economic reliance on the U.S. Such talk faded as a subsequent collapse in global trade left no nation untouched. Yet with their big populations and growing middle classes, the BICs now seem to have suffered only a glancing blow. The word *redcoupling* is beginning to appear in the media. Nandan Nilekani, who is about to leave the chairmanship of Indian tech company Infosys for a government post, speaks of "tactical coupling" and "strategic decoupling." That is, nobody could escape the short-term effects of a global crisis, but the basic BIC growth story still holds.

If the BICs can keep growing even as the U.S. and Europe flounder, it would spell an end to America's long reign as the driving force in the global economy. Goldman's O'Neill has said it's "conceivable" that China's economy will be bigger than that of the U.S. in less than 20 years and that the BRIC countries as a group will carry as much economic weight as the G-7 group of Western



powers plus Japan. This sounds like bad news for the U.S.—and it will certainly bring all sorts of new complications to the global political scene. From a purely economic standpoint, though, the rise of the BICs is great in that it offers the only remotely attractive path out of our current conundrum.

Discussions of the U.S. losing its spot as global top dog often get mired in predictions of doom and comparisons to the Roman Empire. When Rome fell, technological advances were lost for centuries, and Europe descended into the Dark Ages. The rise and fall of economic powers since the dawn of modern capitalism in the 17th century has been a different story. There have been shifts in relative power, and some have led to violent conflict, but living standards have continued to improve over time,


even in lands that lost the crown of most powerful—Britain being the most recent example.

And so while U.S. economic dominance appears to be giving way to something more muddled, this doesn't imply absolute decline. The U.S. retains a lot of strong points—great universities, millions of ambitious immigrants, a culture that celebrates risk-taking—that are hard for any other nation to match. Just because the U.S. is no longer all-important doesn't mean it will no longer be competitive.

In fact, the U.S. might turn out to be more competitive. American dominance has in recent years been a mixed blessing. Many countries got addicted to selling to American consumers and poured capital into the U.S. to keep the buying going. These inflows kept the dollar strong, making life tough for U.S. exporters; they also saddled Americans with the unsustainable debt loads that led to the financial crisis. Now no one abroad is willing to lend to deadbeat American households, and the U.S. government has temporarily taken over as the world's chief borrower and spender. But as we've just learned from the example of the American consumer, one can't borrow and spend forever.

Sometime in the near future, then, the U.S. will have to start living within its means—or at least a lot closer to them than it currently does. To keep this new American frugality from battering the global economy even more than it's been battered, somebody has to pick up the resulting slack in demand. Europe and Japan have been hit harder by the downturn than the U.S. has, and they have aging, slow-growing populations unlikely to ignite consumer booms. That leaves the BICs as pretty much the only remaining candidates. These economies are still too small to take up all the slack: together their GDP amounts to less than half that of the U.S. But they are expanding rapidly. Yes, their ascent spells relative economic decline for the U.S. The faster it happens, though, the sooner a durable global economic recovery will get under way. Go BICs!

While U.S. economic dominance is giving way to something more muddled, this doesn't imply absolute decline. The U.S. retains a lot of strong points

A full-page photograph of Michael Jackson. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark, patterned jacket with a red collar. His right arm is raised, and he is pointing his index finger upwards. The background is a vibrant, abstract mix of blue, purple, and orange light patterns, suggesting a stage performance or a music video set. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

MICHAEL JACKSON

Legend

1958-2009

Last dance Jackson rehearsing two days before he died. His troubled life ended with a troubling death, full of questions, allegations and rumors

KEVIN MAZUR—AEG/WIREIMAGE/GETTY



Lost Kingdom. The icon's death has sparked a war over his legacy. Inside his final days

BY RICHARD CORLISS



Neverland: The Next Graceland?

Facing foreclosure, Jackson sold most of the ownership of his longtime home to a private-equity firm. The large California estate could become a memorial to Jackson



Kids Go to Mom, Then Diana Ross

Jackson's will gives his mother custody of his three kids. Backup guardian: singer Diana Ross. Ex-wife Debbie Rowe, mother of the two oldest kids, is not mentioned

AT WEDNESDAY NIGHT'S REHEARSALS, the middle-aged man of 50 was showing the kids how it's done. "He'd take the stage with this group of dancers, all in their 20s, but you couldn't take your eyes off him," says Dorian Holley, vocal director for Michael Jackson's *This Is It* series of concerts, planned to begin this month in London. During Jackson's run-through at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, "he was giving a clinic to those dancers," recalls Bashiri Johnson, the percussionist on the tour. "Whenever he would do a move, he'd raise the bar." If somebody screwed up, the star took it placidly, saying over and over, "This is what rehearsals are for." He was psyched to see his comeback extravaganza finally taking recognizable shape. "He was aglow that night—aglow and afloat," Johnson says. "His feet barely touched the stage, and he wasn't stressed at all."

The following afternoon, Jackson was dead. His physician, Conrad Murray, said when the star had stopped breathing, he had done CPR but delayed calling 911 for up to 30 minutes because he wasn't sure of the street address of Jackson's Holmby Hills home. The star was declared dead at 2:26 p.m. local time on June 25, and the awful news raced quickly from the ER through the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. Even veteran nurses reacted like many of his fans soon would. "They were hysterical. They're going, 'Michael Jackson is dead, he's dead!' They were catatonic," Irena Medavoy, wife of studio chief Mike Medavoy and a junior high school friend of Jackson's, told PEOPLE. She was arriving for an appointment when the ambulance bearing Jackson pulled up. "I was there for about an hour and a half, and by the time I got out, people outside are sobbing and other people dressed up as Michael are dancing."

So began the tribute from millions. Mourning is usually a song of celebration in a minor key, but the memorial services, at the Apollo Theater in Harlem and around the world, took on the tone of a jubilant revival meeting. MTV remembered that it used to be a music network and became MJTV for a few days. And Jackson's

CDs, which sold torpidly in the past few years, were again best sellers.

The high-speed flowering of interest, melancholy and remorse is common at the sudden early passing of a superstar—James Dean, Marilyn Monroe, Jimi Hendrix, Princess Diana—whose life is marked by achievement and controversy. Jackson's death and commercial resurrection are eerily like those of Elvis Presley, dead at 42. One Hollywood cynic, learning that Presley had just died, commented, "Good career move." Cutting but prophetic: Elvis sold far more records after his death than before. Presley's daughter Lisa Marie, Jackson's wife for 20 months in the mid-'90s, recalled a few days ago on her MySpace page a conversation with Jackson: "He stared at me very intensely and he stated with an almost calm certainty, 'I am afraid that I am going to end up like [Elvis], the way he did.'"

Unquestionably, Jackson is worth more dead than alive. The 1,000 hours of video of the final rehearsals of his London show could be worth about \$500 million in gross sales of DVDs, CDs and other items. His assets include half ownership of music publisher Sony/ATV, worth \$1 billion. His small remaining interest in Neverland could skyrocket in value; so will his personal items when sold. But his staggering debt, perhaps \$500 million, reflects a lifetime of indulgence on antiques, houses, helicopters, more than \$100 million in annual upkeep on the 2,500-acre (1,000 hectare) Neverland estate and the hosting of an army of parasitic hangers-on, pseudo advisers and business partners whose main concern did not seem to be him. Says a source with knowledge of Jackson's finances: "All these other guys tried to set these deals up—lucrative deals up—everything from starting theme parks in different countries to other brand-extension-type ideas. They were trying to set up deals and take fees regardless if they made him money or not."

The King died from a surfeit of pills and junk food. But what or who killed the King of Pop? Amateur pathologists in the entertainment-

The star's survivors and friends are also pressing for answers. "The doctor has showed some bizarre behavior," the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who has ministered to the family in recent days, told PEOPLE. "Apparently, the doctor was with Michael, maybe administering to his back pain. And then, the next thing that happens is there is a 911 call ... Then, of course, the doctor did not confer with the family ... He didn't sign the death certificate. He didn't talk with the coroner. And then he was missing in action. Finally, when he surfaced, he surfaced with a lawyer. All these are rather bizarre actions. There may be plausible answers, but we don't know."

Smash CDs followed, and his collaboration with Lionel Richie on the single and video "We Are the World" sold 7.5 million copies in the U.S. and raised more than \$60 million for famine relief in Africa. He wowed 'em at the Super Bowl and with spectacular concert tours whose sne-



1958-2009



Michael Jackson is born **Aug. 29, 1958**, in Gary, Ind., the seventh of nine children. His family lived in this modest home

The **Jackson 5**, composed of Michael (front), Marlon, Jackie, Tito and Jermaine. Michael, the most talented, takes over lead-singing duties by age 8



The group wins an amateur-night contest at Harlem's Apollo Theater



After a successful audition for **Motown Records**, the group goes on to record more than half a dozen studio albums for Berry Gordy's soul label



The Jackson 5 make their first appearance on **The Ed Sullivan Show**



The Jackson 5 release their debut album. The single "I Want You Back," sung by 11-year-old Michael, rockets to No. 1

DIANA ROSS PRESENTS THE JACKSON 5
Album peaks at No. 5



Guinness Book of World Records declares **Thriller** best-selling solo album ever



Jackson piles up a record **eight Grammy Awards**. "Beat It" wins Record of the Year, while *Thriller* takes home best album

BAD
More than 32 million sold. It goes multiplatinum and is still the only album to produce five No. 1 songs



Elizabeth Taylor marries husband No. 7, Larry Fortensky, at Neverland. Jackson escorts her down the aisle



Together with a cast of music royalty and '80s standouts (Sheila E.), Jackson **records the single "We Are the World,"** co-written with Lionel Richie, to benefit the USA for Africa famine-relief charity. It sells 7 million copies



DANGEROUS
More than 30 million estimated sales. The "Black or White" video released in advance of the album is controversial due to its violent and sexually explicit content

Marries **Lisa Marie Presley**, Elvis' only child, in a secret ceremony in the Dominican Republic. They divorce in 1996



The family of a young boy who had stayed at Neverland says Jackson **sleazed him** and files a lawsuit. Jackson cuts short his *Dangerous* world tour and offers a televised denial. The suit is settled out of court for a reported \$20 million



Performs live at the Rose Bowl Stadium during the **Super Bowl** halftime show



Jackson suffers second- and third-degree burns when his **hair catches fire** while filming a Pepsi commercial in Los Angeles



Following "I Want You Back," the group's **next three singles**—"ABC," "The Love You Save" and "I'll Be There"—also top the **Billboard charts**, an unprecedented feat



The group's **short-lived TV show**, *The Jacksons*, debuts on CBS. By this time, youngest brother Randy (above, far left) has replaced Jermaine

"Got to Be There," Michael's **first solo single**, reaches No. 4 on the charts. The similarly titled album is released the following year

GOT TO BE THERE
Album peaks at No. 14



With "**Ben**," the title song to a film about a telepathic pet rat, 14-year-old Michael notches his **first No. 1 solo hit**

"**Billie Jean**," the second single from *Thriller*, moonwalks to No. 1. With vocals recorded in one amazing take, it remains on top for seven weeks

The Wiz, starring Jackson as the **Scarecrow** and Diana Ross as Dorothy, opens in U.S. theaters. The film flops, but Jackson meets Quincy Jones on the set. The duo form a legendary partnership

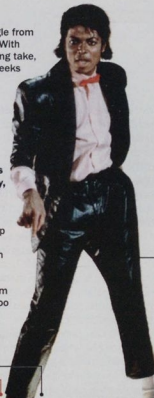
Jackson wins **first Grammy**, for Best R&B Male Vocal Performance on "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough," from *Off the Wall*. He is irked that the album doesn't win too

OFF THE WALL
More than 20 million sold



MTV first airs Jackson's 14-min. **Thriller** minmovie, the most expensive music video of its time

THRILLER
More than 104 million sold



HISTORY: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE—BOOK 1
20 million estimated sales

Marries Debbie Rowe, a nurse. Despite never living together, they have two children, but they divorce in 1999. Rowe gives up her parental rights but later petitions to have them restored



Jackson dangles his baby son, Prince Michael II, off a hotel balcony in Berlin as he greets fans gathered below

Charged with molesting a then-12-year-old cancer patient, Jackson pleads not guilty. Trial is set for January 2005

In the TV documentary *Living with Michael Jackson*, the singer reveals that he **invited young boys to Neverland for sleepovers** and let them sleep in his bed. "It's not sexual. I tuck them in, have hot milk, give them cookies," he says

Facing foreclosure after defaulting on a \$24.5 million loan, Jackson **loses control of Neverland**



June 25, 2009: dies in Los Angeles

Announces a series of concerts—his "**final curtain call**"—at London's O2 arena. Some 750,000 tickets sell out within hours



INVINCIBLE
10 million estimated sales. Jackson's first all-new album in 10 years is panned. It would be his last

Jackson is **acquitted on all counts** in his child-molestation case. After the verdict, he drops out of sight, eventually turning up in Bahrain



A Bahraini royal who had hosted Jackson in the Arab emirate after his molestation trial **sues the singer for \$7 million**, alleging breach of contract. The case is quickly settled out of court



cial effects never overwhelmed the slender dude with the gentle demeanor, dervish footwork and nonpareil showmanship. If you were a star in the '80s, you'd want to be Michael Jackson.

Yet it seemed as though he didn't want to be Michael Jackson. His disastrous compact with California plastic surgeons altered his face nearly beyond recognition. His cocoa skin was gradually blanched into a geisha's pancake white—the result, doctors said, of the pigment-depleting disease vitiligo. Except when camouflaged by makeup in videos—he even wore it to bed, said ex-wife Lisa Marie—or cavorting as a speck onstage in giant arenas, he retreated to his palatial Neverland estate near Santa Barbara, Calif., and became the world's most reclusive exhibitionist.

Jackson had hoped to star in a Steven Spielberg film of the James M. Barrie play *Peter Pan*, about the boy from Neverland who refuses to grow up. The story's reflection of his own needs, dreams and scars was poignant. In a tearful (and top-rated) interview with Oprah Winfrey, he confessed that his father had beat him and called him ugly (this beautiful child). Who wouldn't want a makeover of that scarred youth? Once he had the money and power, the perpetually preadolescent Jackson moved into a fantasy version of childhood, in the company of young boys he saw as his peers and saviors. Asked by Winfrey what he missed most in his own youth, he replied, "Slumber parties." He'd make good on that wish, bunking with kids his own emotional age.

One of those boys brought a child-molestation suit against Jackson, which consumed the tabloids, subjected him to a penis examination and ended only when he settled with the boy's family for a reported \$20 million. In 2003, Jackson was charged with child molestation in criminal court. At his trial in 2005, he proclaimed his innocence, once showing up in court in his pajamas. The jury agreed with him. He was never convicted of anything, except terminal weirdness, by a public for whom Jackson was less famous than notorious.

This Peter Pan died just as he was showing signs of adult behavior. In 2005, Jackson saw Ron Burkle, the billionaire chairman of Yucaipa Cos., at the funeral of Johnnie Cochran, who had defended Jackson. Burkle, a person close to the matter told PEOPLE, "told him in a very honest way that he kind of had to grow up, and as an adult, you have to start paying attention to where your money is going. Ron advised him to cut his spending or go back to work." Jackson sold Neverland to a partnership run by Colony Capital, a private-equity firm, and moved to the ultra-posh Holmby Hills in West L.A. Burkle's counsel was sensible, free and friendly, and it more than likely saved Jackson's wealth. He even paid for forensic accountants to untangle Jackson's finances.

The Gloved One began writing his own checks. But even with cutbacks, Jackson needed income to maintain his lifestyle. That would mean performing; he hadn't toured since 1997. So he reluctantly agreed to a London gig that would eventually grow to 50 shows. He had already sold over \$90 million worth of tickets. The aging King of Pop was primed for a comeback.

Now his realm will be open for inspection and vandalism by any number of interested parties and their lawyers. A will Jackson signed in 2002, made public after his death, leaves his estate to a family trust and nothing to Debbie Rowe, his second wife and the mother of Prince Michael Jackson, 12, and Paris Jackson, 11. A third child, Prince Michael II, 7, was born to an unidentified surrogate mother. The star's mother Katherine is named as a beneficiary to the trust and guardian of the three children. But they won't see their inheritance, if any, until the debt issues are resolved. "You have to pay your creditors before you can pay your children," says Robert Rasmussen, who teaches contract law at the University of Southern California. "That's Law 101."

And with the estate's current net worth north of \$200 million and likely to spew cash forever, the vultures will circle ever lower; expect the convergence of cash and carrion. The will is sure to be contested. However sad the child-molestation cases were, the battles over the Jackson fortune, and the allegations that are sure to surface, will be uglier still.

All sorts of pepper is flying out of the postmortem-Michael rumor mill: that Jackson dermatologist Arnold Klein is the father of two of the children, that Rowe was only the surrogate mother of those kids. Even if any of this is true, says Scott Altman, a law professor at USC, "that's probably going to be irrelevant. In California, a child born during a marriage is strongly presumed to be the child of the husband and the wife. And if Rowe has been visiting pretty regularly—if they think of her as a mother and have an ongoing personal, intimate relationship with her—then she could probably succeed in getting custody."

Twenty years ago, Jackson was concluding one of the hottest decades enjoyed by any star in any medium. Twenty years before that, he was a magic child, the Prince of Pop. It would be a blessing if he could be remembered for the joy he engendered and the musical kingdom he created—and if we see that last rehearsal tape—the artist he was about to prove he still could be. —REPORTED BY STEPHEN GANDEL, HITHA PRABHAKAR, ANDREA SACHS AND S. JAMES SNYDER/NEW YORK CITY AND CHAMP CLARK, JESSICA HERMON, ELIZABETH LEONARD AND ALISON STATEMAN/LOS ANGELES

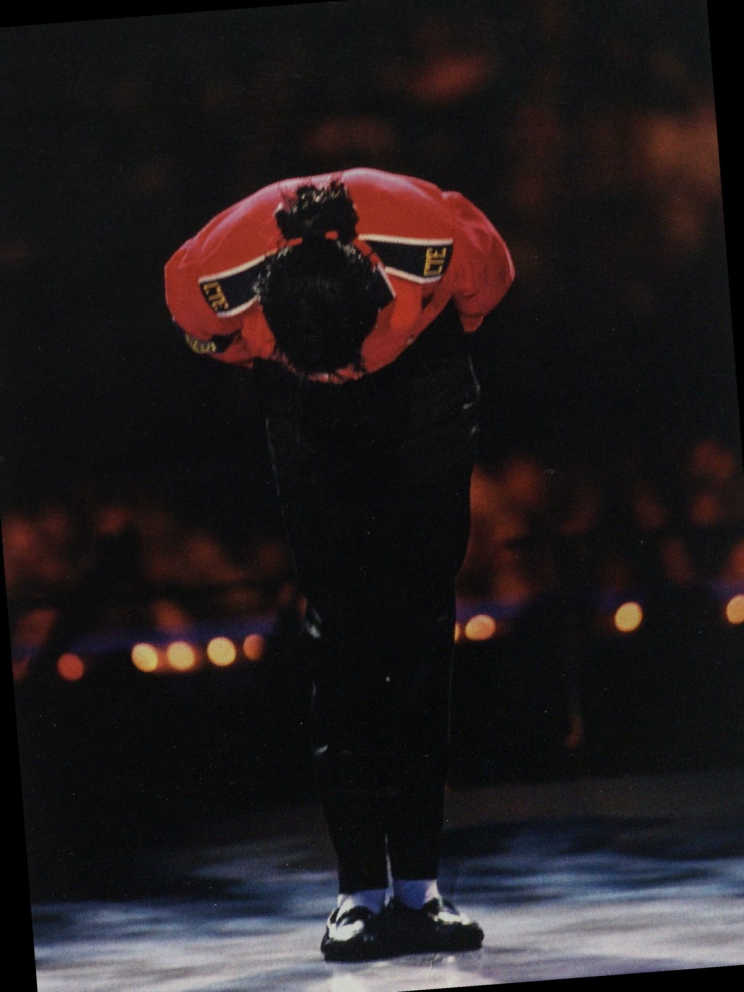


Remembering Michael

For more coverage of the life and death of Michael Jackson go to time.com/michaeljackson or pick up our Commemorative Edition at newsstands now

Plus

For breaking news on the Jackson story, visit people.com. And check out PEOPLE's special tribute issue, on newsstands now, or order the PEOPLE tribute book, *Thriller: Remembering Michael Jackson*, at people.com/michaeljacksonbook



Our Favorite Songs. Celebs pick their top MJ tracks



Alicia Keys
Musician

I CAN'T HELP IT

I just love the bass line and chords of that song; it just puts you in an immediate zone—that yearning and that desire that's in his voice. I believe Stevie Wonder wrote that song, and it's just a beautiful culmination of the emotion of music



A.R. Rahman
Oscar-winning composer

MAN IN THE MIRROR

You look in the mirror and change yourself, and then the world will change. I love that thought



Stevie Wonder
Musician

HUMAN NATURE

When I first heard it I was over at Quincy [Jones'] home and we danced to the music. It was magical



Sheryl Crow
Singer-songwriter and former Jackson backup singer

I'LL BE THERE

His sweet young voice had the understanding that made you believe he knew what he was singing about



Lenny Kravitz
Singer-songwriter

LOOKIN' THROUGH THE WINDOWS

This song is complex, the chord changes are beautiful, the range in which Michael sings on that track is phenomenal



Jesse Jackson
Minister and activist

WE ARE THE WORLD

That, to me, was an autobiographical song. We are red, yellow, black, white. We live in a multiracial, multicultural world, so let's act that way



Spike Lee
Director-producer

I'LL BE THERE

I loved him as a solo artist—I had a big Afro like he did, and I hoped that the girls would like me the way they liked him—but I have a special place in my heart for the stuff he did with the Jackson 5



John Mayer
Singer-songwriter

P.Y.T. (PRETTY YOUNG THING)

I'm listening to it in my head. It's got tension and release, it goes loud, it goes quiet. It sort of makes a complete circle



General Colin Powell
Former Secretary of State

ABC

The spirited lyrics, the dancing and the joy of watching these five handsome, clean-cut youngsters pouring their hearts out moved me then and moves me now. It was the early '70s, a time of war, a time of political turmoil, a time of the counter-culture and domestic unrest. They made us smile with their freshness and their cute 'fros. We tapped our feet, felt good watching them, and our cares left for a few minutes



Anjelica Huston
Actress and Jackson's co-star in *Captain EO*

THRILLER

It's the one I like to think of him singing, because it's him at his most fiery and strongest



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Politically Incorrect

How Avigdor Lieberman became the most polarizing figure in Israeli politics—and why he could scuttle Barack Obama's plans for peace in the Middle East

BY ROMESH RATNESAR AND TIM MCGIRK/JERUSALEM

FOR A MAN REPUTED TO BE ISRAEL'S BIGGEST loudmouth, Avigdor Lieberman speaks softly. His flat, Russian-accented baritone rarely rises above a murmur. He's not a shouter. But when Lieberman talks, people listen—less because he is Israel's top diplomat than because of his knack for saying decidedly undiplomatic things. Lieberman believes that Israel's Arab citizens, who make up nearly 20% of the population, should be forced to sign oaths of loyalty. He has advocated the death penalty for Arab members of parliament who meet with members of Hamas. He calls the Obama Administration's push to curb the building of Jewish settlements in the West Bank a "mistake." It's not the kind of language you'd expect from a Foreign Minister, but Lieberman, 51, doesn't care. "I don't

How far Netanyahu travels in Obama's direction may depend on Lieberman's willingness to go along. "Lieberman is the most talented politician on the scene today," says Yaron Ezrahi, a professor of political science at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. "But his kind of politics is also dangerous—to Israeli democracy and to the prospect of any kind of peace settlement with the Palestinians."

The Foreign Minister is an unlikely firebrand. In person, he can be reserved to the point of shyness. When we met him at his office on June 24, we asked Lieberman whether Obama needed to take a tougher stand against Iran's crack-down on those protesting the results of the June 12 election. "This is a really fanatic, extremist regime that is still in power, and the young people... are not getting any real support from the West," he said. "It shows the bad guys are winners." And he reiterated his resistance to any U.S. attempt to stop settlement growth. "We have our opinions, and the Americans have theirs," he said. "We can't suffocate our people."

Lieberman's hard line is the product of his past. His family moved to Israel in 1978 from the Soviet republic of Moldavia, now Moldova. His father fought in the Red Army in World War II but, like many other Soviet Jews, later spent years of forced exile in Siberia. "In my home, we spoke only about Israel," Lieberman says. "It was a dream that one day we would come here." Upon arriving, Lieberman enrolled at Hebrew University, moonlighting as a bouncer at a student nightclub and becoming active in the right-wing Likud Party. In the late '80s, he and his wife moved to Nokdim, a rugged West Bank settlement overlooking the Judean desert, where he still lives. (Each night, he is driven home in an armored car, since portions of his commute pass by Palestinian villages.)

Around the time he settled in Nokdim, Lieberman met Netanyahu, then

a rising Likud star. He ran Netanyahu's first, successful campaign for Prime Minister, in 1996, and became his chief of staff. "Netanyahu trusted him," says Tzahi Hanegbi, who served as the Justice Minister at the time. "He was quiet, discreet and loyal." In 1999, Lieberman split from Netanyahu and Likud, forming Yisrael Beiteinu, an unapologetically nationalist party that drew its support from Israel's Russian-immigrant community. The party's most explosive position is the call for all citizens to pledge allegiance to the Jewish state as a condition of the right to vote—a barely veiled challenge to the loyalty of Israeli Arabs. "It's unacceptable that on Independence Day they are burning the Israeli flag," Lieberman says.

There's little chance the loyalty pledge will become law. Lieberman knows this. But by pressing the issue, he taps a growing impatience among Israelis with the country's Arab citizens, some of whom openly sided with Hamas during Israel's offensive against the militant group last winter. "His views have a constituency," says Hanegbi. "People want someone who will represent their fears and frustrations." Lieberman insists he supports an independent Palestinian state and says Israel is "ready to start negotiations without preconditions." But in Lieberman's view, peace doesn't mean cohabitation. "His governing idea is, Jews on one side, Arabs on the other," says a senior official.

It's an appealingly simple vision, but also a cynical one. Any final agreement between Arabs and Israelis will require them to share some territory—in Jerusalem, for instance—to which both can make rightful claims. Insisting on physical separation as a prerequisite for a peace deal is a safe way to ensure that one is never struck. Lieberman's views may be finding acceptance in the Israeli mainstream. But they are not the way to forge a lasting peace in the Middle East. ■

Lieberman resists the U.S.'s call for a freeze on settlement growth. 'We have our opinions, and they have theirs. We can't suffocate our people,' he says

like political correctness," he says with a shrug. "I say exactly what I mean, and I mean what I say."

That bluntness has earned Lieberman the devotion of Israeli hawks and the disdain of liberals, Palestinians and just about every government in the Arab world. In February's election, Lieberman's 10-year-old party, Yisrael Beiteinu (Israel Is Our Home), won the third highest number of seats in the Knesset, making him a linchpin of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government. That has complicated the Obama Administration's effort to pressure Israel to freeze settlement growth and restart peace negotiations with the Palestinians.



What Happened To the Stimulus?

The Administration's \$787 billion booster shot is not the magic bullet some had expected. Inside the White House operation to fix that

BY MICHAEL SCHERER

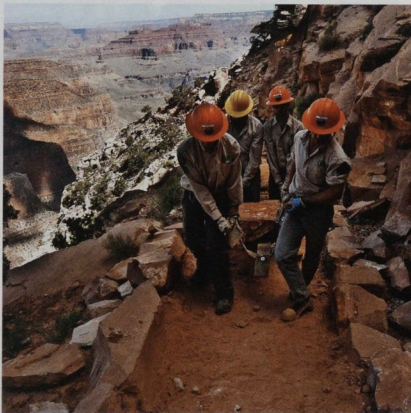
FUELED BY COKE ZERO AND A double-chocolate protein bar, Vice President Joe Biden is roiling, ranting, being his usual self. Five mayors and county executives listen in silence on the other end of a White House speakerphone as the Delaware car bender tries to ride herd on the stampede for dollars known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the \$787 billion monster that is the largest domestic-spending effort in U.S. history. "My rear end is on the line just like yours," Biden barks, surrounded by a flock of aides in his West Wing office. "I'm the guy in charge of this deal. So if this doesn't work, it's me."

When Congress passed the stimulus bill in February, it came as both good news and bad news to the Obama White House. The good: never before had an Administration had so much money to spend on voters in need—to rebuild public buildings, save jobs, weatherize homes and fund community health centers. The bad: rarely has the passage of a measure been accompanied by such skepticism about the government's ability to spend the money wisely or well.

And ever since, public doubts about the stimulus have, if anything, deepened. The economy deteriorated faster than econo-



Washington Workers repave a stretch of I-90 as part of a \$2.7 million rehab plan



Arizona Grand Canyon National Park received \$10.8 million for various projects



Ohio Some \$2 million dollars in stimulus money is being spent to widen a highway ramp in Cleveland



Colorado A \$1.2 million grant is paying for sidewalk and road repair in Littleton

mists expected, with unemployment now predicted to exceed 10% next year, higher than the White House had projected in January. While that might under normal circumstances make any stimulus more popular, voters have been spooked by the enormous deficits Washington is running up as it tries to right the economy. In 2009 alone, the U.S. government will take on debt equal to about 13% of its economic output, and by 2016 the U.S. debt is projected to top 70% of GDP, twice the 2000 level. Poll after poll has shown a steady erosion of confidence in the stimulus measure; one survey found that 45% of voters believe it should be abandoned midstream.

Killing Frisbee Golf

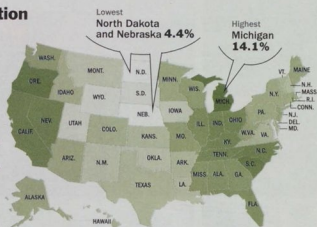
BIDEN SAW THIS DAY COMING. IN FEBRUARY, the Vice President and Ron Klain, his chief of staff, penned Barack Obama a memo predicting that spending \$787 billion on tens of thousands of projects through hundreds of agencies would create opportunities for waste and corruption on an unprecedented scale. Biden suggested that someone with heft needed to be put in charge. During one of their weekly lunches, the President read over the memo, nodded and then handed it back to Biden. Do it, he said. Months later, Biden still laughs about how it happened. "Last memo I've written him," he says. "No more memos."

After decades in the Senate (where he was no slouch at snagging funds for his home state of Delaware), Biden knew his way around a rotten pork barrel. So he set up an in-house watchdog group, with a team that would grow to eight and a charge to keep the spending clean, quick and defensible. Economists will tell you that the most important part of a stimulus is getting the money into the economy fast, where it can replace lost consumer and business spending and keep people employed. But Biden's team knew that it's just as important to maintain public confidence in the enterprise, especially in an age of \$500 million helicopters and Bridges to Nowhere. At the White House, this worry translated into a simple if fuzzy standard for deciding which projects pass muster: prudence. "It's like pornography," says Edward DeSeve, the senior adviser to the President for recovery and reinvestment. "You know prudence when you see it."

Biden's team informed states and localities months ago to scrub their wish lists of anything that might be seen as unnecessary or wasteful. White House officials were happy to sign off on bridge repairs and roadwork on busy intersections and new runway signals for strapped airports. But they have spent a lot of time trying to

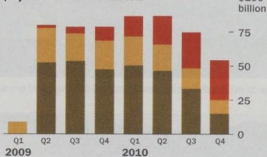
A Suffering Nation

Agonizing waves of job losses, which are expected to continue into next year, have hit some parts of the country harder than others



STIMULUS SPENDING IS SET TO ACCELERATE ...

Over the next two years, more federal dollars will flow to "hard hat" construction projects and fewer to tax cuts



... WITH \$152 BILLION GOING TO INFRASTRUCTURE

About 19% of the Recovery Act funds will go to shoring up the U.S.'s backbone

	Billions
Transportation	\$54.4
Water	13.2
Energy grid	17.0
IT	10.5
Research	12.0
Natural	9.1
Other	36.4

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Brookings Institution; Moody's Economy.com

kill projects that sound like red alerts on Fox News: a plan for military-cemetery headstone-straightening was scrapped, as was a request for a \$10,000 refrigerator to house fish sperm in South Dakota. Gone too was \$7 million for Interior Department aircraft to study bird migration. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood persuaded the governor of Ohio to redirect \$57 million for future road-project planning to immediate construction. Cities and states were told to stay away from swimming-pool construction and anything with the word *golf* in it—Frisbee golf, clock golf, minigolf. "The Frisbee people are going to be unhappy with me forever," says DeSeve.

Managing the stimulus story is a White House preoccupation. Obama, Geithner, even the First Lady are out selling the plan

But the sheer complexity of the stimulus measure makes it difficult to bird-dog. Though the Recovery Act was a single piece of legislation, it included thousands of funding streams for tens of thousands of projects. About \$144 billion is allocated directly into state coffers for continuing existing programs that have been heavily burdened by the recession, like Medicaid. Hundreds of billions more have been set aside for tax cuts and continuing benefits to the poor and unemployed. The most visible part of the program, and the most politically explosive, is the roughly \$152 billion for infrastructure investment, for which no one had a road map. In some cases, states and localities could spend those funds pretty much any way they liked. And that's where Biden's bloodhounds have been sniffing around.

Some silly projects are sure to be built. In Long Beach, Calif., local and state officials bucked the orders from Washington. The city council unanimously approved a \$620,000 skateboard-park renovation in a rough neighborhood, half-pipe and all. "It's an incredible opportunity," says local councilman Robert Garcia. "This is near and dear to my heart," noted California Senator



Oversight Biden meets weekly with members of the Cabinet in order to try to bird-dog billions in stimulus spending

Barbara Boxer on the Senate floor. Biden's staff has battled to kill the project behind the scenes, and the outcome is still unclear. Meanwhile, on other requests, Republicans quibbled with Biden's definition of *prudent*. Some \$3.4 million will be spent on a Florida wildlife crossing at a highway with one of the highest rates of turtle mortality in the world. "Why did the turtle cross the road?" Oklahoma Senator Tom Coburn, a leading Republican critic of the stimulus, teased in his report on the spending. "To get to the other side of a stimulus project."

What really haunts the White House is the fear that much of the money might be spent less efficiently than it could have been. For example, studies have shown that more jobs are created when cities and states repair existing roads than when they build new ones. Highway-maintenance projects not only put more people to work more quickly than building new roads does but also keep costs down in the future. But according to one recent study by a nonprofit smart-growth advocacy

group, roughly 31% of the state-certified first-round transportation funding in one \$27 billion highway fund will go not to maintaining existing roads but to building new highways or adding lanes to old ones. Kentucky, where 38% of roads are in poor condition, is spending 88% of its stimulus money on new additions. Then there is the sheer scale of the challenge. In many of these same states, the biggest concern is not the type of stimulus spending but the amount of it. "Of course it's not creating enough jobs," Senator Sherrod Brown, an Ohio Democrat, says of the stimulus. "We're not going to have enough [jobs] because we lost so many."

Hanging over all these concerns is the prospect that a second stimulus bill may be needed to bail out states in late 2010 or 2011. State budgets have been drowning in red ink as jobless claims and Medicaid bills have skyrocketed; few expect those trends to ease soon. In June, White House counselor David Axelrod left open the possibility that a second stimulus may be needed. The White House is confronted with the prospect of having to ask for more money early next year—even as a group of voters is ready

to dump the first stimulus right now.

That helps explain why managing the stimulus story has become a full-time White House preoccupation. On a typical day recently, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner appeared in the Bronx to announce \$90 million in inner-city financing; Michelle Obama revealed \$851 million in new health-center grants; and the President, in the Grand Foyer, hailed stimulus jobs "building wind turbines and solar panels." Biden announced plans to fly to Pennsylvania, where he will "highlight Recovery Act broadband investments," while other agencies rolled out press releases regarding new dump-truck engines in Montana, North Dakota school grants and diesel tractors in Utah.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, Biden has ordered his staff to return any call or e-mail from states and localities seeking guidance within 24 hours. "It's so important you make sure—don't get mad at me—that there are no water parks, golf courses or anything that doesn't pass not only the test of the law but the smell test," Biden tells the mayors during the conference call. "Because we've got to do this thing really well."

Obama's Sanctuary.

Inside the church where Presidents pray in peace

BY AMY SULLIVAN



FOR THE PAST FIVE MONTHS, WHITE House aides and friends of the Obamas have been quietly visiting Washington-area churches and vetting the sermons of local ministers in search of a new—and uncontroversial—church home for the First Family. The President even sampled a few himself, showing up for services at 19th Street Baptist Church on the week end before his Inauguration and celebrating Easter at St. John's Episcopal Church.

But in the midst of the church search, Barack Obama has found an unexpected place to bow his head. He and his family have chosen to worship most often not at a bustling urban church but at a rustic chapel in the Catotchin Mountains at Camp David, a 75-minute drive from Washington. It's a preference the new President shares with George W. Bush, who made the presidential retreat's Evergreen Chapel his primary place of worship during his time in office.

Some presidential watchers are surprised that the Obamas haven't already joined a local congregation. This is, after all, a First Family that has embraced the capital city, popping up at what seems like every burger joint, soup kitchen and soccer field around town. But it's one thing to cheer on Sasha and Malia in front of a crowd; it's another to worship on display.

Obama was reportedly taken aback by



The First Pew For now, Obama will follow the Bush family's example and go to the nondenominational chapel at Camp David

the circus that attended his January visit to 19th Street Baptist. Lines started forming three hours before the morning service, and many longtime members were literally left out in the cold as the pews filled with spectators. At St. John's, on Lafayette Square, worshippers couldn't help snapping photos of Obama with their camera phones as they walked past him to take Communion. "The President continues to have [concerns] about the disruptive nature of his presence on any particular Sunday," said press secretary Robert Gibbs at a recent briefing.

The challenge of being part of a church community while also praying in peace has long been a problem for Presidents.

In his book *America's First Families*, historian Carl Sferrazza Anthony wrote that William McKinley, for instance, "hated having people staring at him while he read Psalms, sang hymns, put money in the collection plate or took communion... By the 1920s, getting a presidential family in and out of church was a production."

The First Family won't have that problem at Camp David, where the 150-seat Evergreen Chapel attracts a congregation of 50 to 70 people most Sundays. The stone-and-wood octagonal structure was built nearly two decades ago using private funds; President George H.W. Bush dedicated it in 1991. At the ceremony, the late Cardinal James Hickey of Washington delivered a sermon calling the chapel a "witness to our common belief that we need to seek divine guidance in the conduct of our national affairs."

Each week, regardless of whether the President is on-site, Evergreen Chapel holds nondenominational Christian services open to the nearly 400 military personnel and staff at Camp David, as well as their families. An organist from nearby Hood College organizes adult and children's choirs. (Bill Clinton liked to sing with the choir when he visited.) In December, kids put on angel wings for a Christmas pageant, and a candlelight service takes place on Christmas Eve.

Camp David's current chaplain, Lieutenant Carey Cash, leads the services at Evergreen. If the White House had custom-ordered a pastor to be the polar opposite of Jeremiah Wright, it could not have done better than Cash. (The White House had no hand in selecting Cash. The Navy assigns chaplains to Camp David on three-year tours.) The 39-year-old Memphis, Tenn., native is a graduate of the Citadel and the great-nephew of Johnny Cash. He served as chaplain with a Marine battalion in Iraq (baptizing nearly 60 Marines) and graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. And yes, that means Obama's most frequent preacher is a Southern Baptist.

The White House—wary of disappointing the legion of Washington pastors who have lobbied to score the Obamas as new members—is taking pains to emphasize that the First Family has not made any "formal" decisions about "joining" a church. (Evergreen Chapel isn't a membership congregation, in any case, so it wouldn't be possible for them to formally become members.) Officially, "the President and First Family continue to look for a church home." But in the meantime, Obama has told aides he enjoys the little chapel in the woods, the better to hear what Elijah called "the still, small voice of God."

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ESSAY

Why Marriage Matters

Buffeted by affairs and ennui, the intact, two-parent family is under assault. What America needs to get over its commitment issues. (Hint: it isn't love)

BY CAITLIN FLANAGAN

Around the time of my parents' 50th wedding anniversary, I turned to my father at the dinner table one night and said, "It's amazing, Dad—50 years, and you never once had an affair. How do you account for that?"

He replied simply, "I can't drive."

Watching the governor of South Carolina cry like a little girl because his sexy e-mails got forwarded to his local newspaper, the *State*, made me wonder whether the real secret to a lasting marriage lies in limiting your means of escape. Whether you're putting the Buick Regal in reverse or hitting SEND on a love note, you're busting out of your marriage, however temporarily, and soon enough there will be hell to pay.

During the press conference in which he admitted his affair, Mark Sanford warbled that he had broken "God's law," a sentiment that served only to emphasize the narcissism that had gotten him in trouble. Wrestling with God's law had apparently been the subject of many sessions of his Bible-study group, a seminar that may have spent a little too much time on the Song of Solomon, given Sanford's e-mailed encomium of his lover's physique: "I love the curves of your hips, the erotic beauty of you holding yourself (or two magnificent parts of yourself) in the faded glow of night's light." Finally a bit of prose that makes us long for the clinical precision of the Starr report. Sanford told reporters the affair had begun "very innocently," which reveals that he still hasn't been honest with himself about the willfulness of his actions. When a married man begins a secret, solicitous correspondence with a beautiful and emotionally needy single woman, he has already begun to cheat on his wife.

Just a week before, another blue-blazered elected official—Senator John Ensign of Nevada—was forced to make a similar confession, although he left God out of it, which must have been a nice break for the Almighty. Ensign had done "the worst thing" in his entire life, he confessed: "I violated the vows of my marriage." The mood on both occasions was funereal; it might have been touching to see two such buttoned-up guys welling with tears if the corpses weren't their political careers.

No other single force is causing as much measurable hardship in this country as the collapse of marriage



Jenny and Mark Sanford

The one thing both men refused to admit was that, back in the heyday of these affairs, they must have been having a blast. These were two middle-aged, conservative Republican men who had said, To hell with being part of the Cialis generation (midlife sexuality depicted as an aging husband and wife reclining in ... side-by-side bathtubs? What is the drugmaker worried about—that randy Pa might jump in Ma's bath and break her hip?). Their actions were so willful and blatantly self-centered that the two of them could have credibly fashioned themselves as rebels, possibly even as heroes, if they could have just stopped crying. They weren't a couple of tools stuck in sexless marriages and making up for it with Internet porn. These guys had embarked on dangerously erotic rampages with real-life, unencumbered women, women who decidedly weren't ... Jenny and Darlene. The long-suffering wives, Fun Busters in Chief.

In the e-mails exchanged between the governor and his girlfriend, they trip over themselves to praise the other's virtues. She was "special and unique," "glorious"; he was a man of emotional generosity who "brought happiness and love to my life." These two humanitarians were engaged not only in worshipping each other's high-mindedness but also in destroying another woman's home, hobbling her children emotionally and setting her up for humiliation of a titanic proportion. The squalor and pain that resulted from the Sanford and Ensign midlife crises make manifest a bleak truth that the late writer Leonard Michaels once observed in his journal: "Adultery is not about sex or romance. Ultimately, it is about how little we mean to one another."

AND SO TWO MORE AMERICAN FAMILIES DISCOVER A TRUTH AS old as marriage: a lasting covenant between a man and a woman can be a vehicle for the nurture and protection of each other, the

one reliable shelter in an uncaring world—or it can be a matchless tool for the infliction of suffering on the people you supposedly love above all others, most of all on your children.

In the past 40 years, the face of the American family has changed profoundly. As sociologist Andrew J. Cherlin observes in a landmark new book called *The Marriage-Go-Round: The State of Marriage and the Family in America Today*, what is significant about contemporary American families, compared with those of other nations, is their combination of “frequent marriage, frequent divorce” and the high number of “short-term co-habiting relationships.” Taken together, these forces “create a great turbulence in American family life, a family flux, a coming and going of partners on a scale seen nowhere else. There are more partners in the personal lives of Americans than in the lives of people of any other Western country.”

An increasingly fragile construct depending less and less on notions of sacrifice and obligation than on the ephemera of romance and happiness as defined by and for its adult principals, the intact, two-parent family remains our cultural ideal, but it exists under constant assault. It is buffeted by affairs and ennui, subject to the eternal American hope for greater happiness, for changing the hand you dealt yourself. Getting married for life, having children and raising them with your partner—this is still the way most Americans are conducting adult life, but the numbers who are moving in a different direction continue to rise. Most notably, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in May that births to unmarried women have reached an astonishing 39.7%.

How much does this matter? More than words can say. There is no other single force causing as much measurable hardship and human misery in this country as the collapse of marriage. It hurts children, it reduces mothers' financial security, and it has landed with particular devastation on those who can bear it least: the nation's underclass.

The Marriage Gap

THE POOR AND THE MIDDLE CLASS ARE VERY DIFFERENT IN THE ways they have forsaken marriage. The poor are doing it by uncoupling parenthood from marriage, and the financially secure are doing it by blasting apart their unions if the principals aren't having fun anymore.

The growing tendency of the poor to have children before marriage—the vast majority of unmarried women having babies are undereducated and have low incomes—is a catastrophic approach to life, as three Presidents in a row have tried to convince them. Bill Clinton's welfare-to-work program encouraged marriage, George W. Bush spent millions to promote marriage, and Barack Obama has spoken powerfully on the need for men to stay with their children: “We need fathers to step up, to realize that their job does not end at conception; that what makes you a man is not the ability to have a child but the courage to raise one.”

The reason for these appeals to lasting unions is simple: on every single significant outcome related to short-term well-being



John and Elizabeth Edwards

and long-term success, children from intact, two-parent families outperform those from single-parent households. Longevity, drug abuse, school performance and dropout rates, teen pregnancy, criminal behavior and incarceration—if you can measure it, a sociologist has; and in all cases, the kids living with both parents drastically outperform the others.

Few things hamper a child as much as not having a father at home. “As a feminist, I didn't want to believe it,” says Maria Kefalas, a sociologist who studies marriage and family issues and co-authored a seminal book on low-income mothers called *Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before Marriage*. “Women always tell me, ‘I can be a mother and a father to a child,’ but it's not true.” Growing up without a father has a deep psychological effect on a child. “The mom may not need that man,” Kefalas says, “but her children still do.”

This turns out to be true across the economic spectrum. The groundbreaking research on the effects of divorce on children from middle- and upper-income households comes from a surprising source: a Princeton sociologist and single mother named Sara McLanahan, who decided to study the fates of these children with the tacit assumption that once you control for income, being part of a single-parent household does not adversely affect kids. The results—which she published in the 1994 book *Growing Up with a Single Parent: What Hurts, What Helps*—were surprising. “Children who grow up in a household with only one biological parent,” she found, “are worse off, on average, than children who grow up in a household with both of their biological parents, regardless of the parents' race or educational background.”

The consequences for more-affluent kids tend to be far less devastating than for poor ones; they are less likely to become teenage parents and high school dropouts. But children

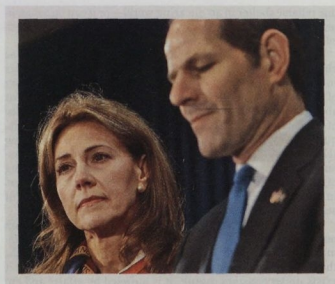
of divorced middle-class parents do less well in school and at college compared with underprivileged kids from two-parent households. "There's a 'sleepier effect' to divorce that we are just beginning to understand," says David Blankenhorn, president of the Institute for American Values. It is an effect that pioneering scholars like McLanahan and Judith Wallerstein have devoted their careers to studying, revealing truths that many of us may find uncomfortable. It's dismissive of the human experience, says Blankenhorn, to suggest that kids don't suffer, extraordinarily, from divorce: "Children have a primal need to know who they are, to love and be loved by the two people whose physical union brought them here. To lose that connection, that sense of identity, is to experience a wound that no child-support check or fancy school can ever heal."

Put a Ring on It

THAT PROMPTS THE QUESTION, DOES THE FATHER HAVE TO actually be married to the mother of his children to have a positive effect on them?

"Not if he behaves exactly like a married man," says Robert Rector, a senior research fellow of domestic policy at the Heritage Foundation. If a man is willing to contribute 70% of his income to the child's upbringing, dedicate himself around the clock to the child's well-being and create a stable home life—a home life that includes his actually living there with mother and child—he might be able to give his child the boon of fatherhood without having to tie the knot. But that rarely happens. When children are born into a co-habiting, unmarried relationship, says Rector, "they arrive in a family in which the principals haven't resolved their most basic issues," including those of sexual fidelity and how to share responsibilities. Let a little stress enter the picture—and what is more stressful than a baby?—and things start to fall apart. The new mother starts to make wife-like demands on the man, and without the commitment of marriage, he is soon out the door.

Significantly, the one thing that unites the poor and the middle class in their hopes for family life is the imperishable dream of being married forever, grabbing hold of the golden ring of lasting partnership. The low-income mothers studied by Kefalas and co-author Kathryn Edin spoke repeatedly of their wish to get married; they "cherish marriage and hold it to an impossibly high standard," the authors found, but too often forgo it as a result. Meanwhile, the middle class has spent the past 2½ decades—during which the divorce culture became a fact of life—turning weddings into overwrought exercises in consumer spending, as if by just plunking down enough cash for the flower girls' dresses and tissue-lined envelopes for the RSVP cards, we can somehow improve our chance of going the distance. Think of the touching moments on Inauguration Night, when at ball after ball, crowds of young people swooned at the sight of Barack and Michelle Obama dancing together, artlessly but sincerely and clearly with great affection. They are an immensely appealing couple, and it was a historic night, but what we saw reflected in the faces of those awed young people—and



Silda and Eliot Spitzer

in the country's insatiable appetite for photographs of the First Family's private life—was wonder at the sight of a middle-aged man and woman still together, still in love.

We want something like that for ourselves; we recognize that it is something of great worth, but we are increasingly less willing to put in the hard work and personal sacrifice to get there. The Obamas, for example, are enjoying their time of family closeness after almost two years of enforced separation, an interlude that would have caused many less committed couples to turn in their cards and give up. A lasting marriage is the reward, usually, of hard work and self-sacrifice.

The Ballad of Jon and Kate

LAST SUMMER, I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT HOW MEANINGFUL the "in sickness and in health" clause of the marriage vows is when I underwent six rounds of chemotherapy, during which my husband treated me with great kindness. I began strong, making it to the dinner table every night and putting up a brave front for our children. But chemo, she will beat you down. I spent the last week on a friend's bedroom floor, heavily drugged, mildly nauseated and watching *Jon & Kate Plus 8*.

Ideal viewing conditions, as it turns out. I grew fond of the titular characters, in particular Kate, who seemed to stand like a colossus over their Pennsylvania tract home, constantly coralling and cajoling her uncountable—and, to the layperson, indistinguishable—children into doing relatively simple things, each of which became a hellish exercise in the improbable simply because of the logistics. Sixteen little shoes had to be found and tied before the family could even leave the house. That they weren't a pack of barefoot shut-ins was a testament to Kate's indomitable will.

Lying on the floor, drifting in and out of consciousness, I would gaze up at her and feel strangely comforted, the way you do around a certain kind of bossy, sexless power mom. The show approximated family life exactly: it was mostly good-natured and often boring and centered on the most basic transactions of daily existence—getting everybody dressed and fed, cleaning up, keeping quarrels to a simmer, not a boil. Now and then—in moments that genuinely did seem unscripted—Kate would wilt, leaning against the kitchen counter with a cup of coffee and seeming, for the twinkling of an eye, as though she were allowing herself to absorb the shock of it all. But then she would shake it off, plow forward, harass Jon into making himself a lower-calorie lunch and go back to wiping down the counters and giving orders.

Even though it was gimmick-filled reality television, there seemed to be a bit of actual—even profound—truth in it. The underlying premise was that Jon and Kate Gosselin's marriage was an enterprise dedicated not to making themselves happy but to taking care of the cavalcade of children they had produced, that they were laboring at something more significant than their own pleasure.

I got well, I went home, and I pretty much forgot about Jon and Kate until a few weeks ago, when they catapulted to the forefront of trash culture because they were—according to the tabloids—separated. I assumed it was a rumor, but it turned out to be true. Jon had gotten bored with being bossed around by Kate, he'd had a fling with a 23-year-old teacher, and the couple had filed for divorce. He still loved the kids, he said—with complete guilelessness, as though loving the kids and doing right by them were unrelated events: "I have a new chapter in my life. I'm only 32 years old. I really don't know what's going to happen." And of course, the Gosselins command more attention now that their union is broken than they did when it was intact.

America's obsession with high-profile marriage flameouts—the Gosselins and the Sanfords and the Edwardses—reflects a collective ambivalence toward the institution: our wish that we could land ourselves in a lasting union, mixed with our feeling of vindication, or even relief, when a standard bearer for the "traditional family" fails to pull it off. This is ultimately self-defeating. It is time instead to come to terms with both our unrealistic expectations for a happy marriage and our equally unrealistic beliefs about the consequences of walking away from the families we build.

The fundamental question we must ask ourselves at the beginning of the century is this: What is the purpose of mar-



Kate and Jon Gosselin

riage? Is it—given the game-changing realities of birth control, female equality and the fact that motherhood outside of marriage is no longer stigmatized—simply an institution that has the capacity to increase the pleasure of the adults who enter into it? If so, we might as well hold the wake now: there probably aren't many people whose idea of 24-hour-a-day good times consists of being yoked to the same romantic partner, through bouts of stomach flu and depression, financial setbacks and emotional upsets, until after many a long decade, one or the other eventually dies in harness.

Or is marriage an institution that still hews to its old intention and function—to raise the next generation, to protect and teach it, to instill in it the habits of conduct and character that will ensure the generation's own safe passage into adulthood? Think of it this way: the current generation of children, the one watching commitments between adults snap like dry twigs and observing parents who simply can't be bothered to marry each other and who hence drift in and out of their children's lives—that's the generation who will be taking care of us when we are old.

Who is left to ensure that these kids grow up into estimable people once the Mark Sanfords and other marital frauds and casual sadists have jumped ship? The good among us, the ones who are willing to sacrifice the thrill of a love letter for the betterment of their children. "His career is not a concern of mine," says Jenny Sanford. "He'll be worrying about that, and I'll be worrying about my family and the character of my children." What we teach about the true meaning of marriage will determine a great deal about our fate. ■

Flanagan is the author of the forthcoming book *Girl Land*

Our obsession with high-profile marriage flameouts reflects a collective ambivalence toward the institution

Life

■ MONEY ■ FAMILY TECH

CASH CRUNCH

Local Currencies.

With money tight, towns are printing their own. But is it worth it?

BY JUDITH D. SCHWARTZ

WITH LOCAL ECONOMIES flailing, communities across the U.S. are trying to drum up more action on Main Street. "Buy Local" campaigns are one way to go. But many towns—from Ojai, Calif., to Greensboro, N.C.—are considering going a step further and printing money that can only be spent locally.

Issuing an alternative currency is perfectly legal, as long as it is treated as taxable income and consists of paper bills rather than coins. In the U.S., where local currencies were popular during the Depression, the biggest alterna-cash system is in Massachusetts' Berkshire County. Go to one of several banks there, hand a teller \$95 and get back \$100 worth of BerkShares, a nice little discount designed to reel in users. BerkShares are printed on special paper (by a local business, naturally—a subsidiary of Crane Paper Co., which has been printing U.S.



greenbacks since 1879). And since the program's inception in 2006, more than \$2.5 million in BerkShares have circulated through bakeries, vets' offices and some 400 other businesses that choose to accept the colorful bills, which feature famous former Berkshire residents,

including W.E.B. Du Bois and Norman Rockwell.

What's the point of all this pretty, community-printed currency? Money spent at locally owned companies tends to create more business for local suppliers, accountants, etc. The New Economics Foun-

dation (NEF), a London think tank, compared the effects of purchasing produce at a super-market and at a farmer's market and found that twice the money stayed in a community when folks bought locally. A study of Grand Rapids, Mich., released last fall by consult-

Spanx for dudes? Equmen sent me an undershirt that promised to compress my core

FAMILY TECH, PAGE 52

2



1



3



Alterna-Cash

1 A Massachusetts BerkShare is equivalent to \$1 but is purchased at a slight discount 2 New York's Ithaca Hour bill is worth \$10; the Half Hour is worth \$5

3 Germany's Lake Chiem area has a fee system that encourages frequent use of the euro-pegged Chiemgauer

but patronize mega-chains or online retailers, he says, and "it flows out like a wound."

Interest in cash alternatives has skyrocketed in recent months (BerkShares.org logged nearly 42,000 hits a day in April) as the recession has encouraged more innovation. For example, a Vermont business association is getting ready to launch a statewide cashless trading network. Ithaca, N.Y., which has the nation's longest-running independent currency,

agreed in June to let people start using the 18-year-old bills to buy transit passes.

But how hard is it to manage and maintain these trade boosters? Ed Collom, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Southern Maine, has studied volunteer-run programs like Ithaca's and found that about 80% failed, chiefly because of administrative burnout. That's why many newer models, like BerkShares, are now set up as nonprofits, complete with administrative support.

Beyond spurring local trade, alternative currencies build awareness about the effect of consumers' choices. "It has started a conversation: Why local currency? Why buy local?" says Oliver Dudok van Heel,

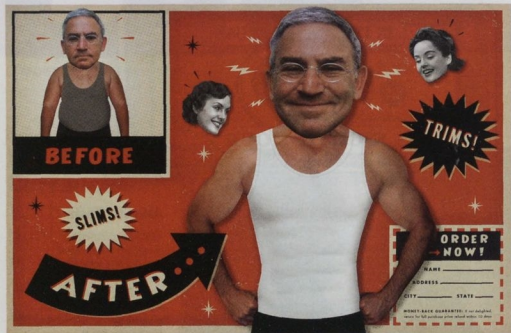
who last fall helped launch the Lewes pound to help a British town become more self-sustainable.

Local currency can generate customer loyalty, but not every business feels as though it can offer a discount like the one built into BerkShares. "They just aren't viable for us," says Beth Parsons, whose family owns a grocery store in Lenox, Mass. But as a consumer, she likes the idea. Parsons recently drove to a nearby town to buy some shoes instead of getting them online. Afterward, she says, she passed a BerkShare sign "at the bank and thought, 'Oh, I should've bought BerkShare bucks to save money on these.'" —WITH REPORTING BY DEIRDRE VAN DYK

Hand a teller \$95, and get back \$100 worth of BerkShares, a nice discount

ing firm Civic Economics, concluded that a 10% shift in market share from chain stores to independents would yield 1,600 new jobs and pump \$137 million into the area. "Money is like blood," says NEF researcher David Boyle. Local purchases recirculate it,

Spanx for Men. Who says girdles are for girls? A fancy new undershirt sucks in your beer gut so you don't have to



BY JOSH QUITNER

I'VE GOT THE HAIR OF A LION, calves like a dancer's and a pretty decent tush. But, sadly, I have the stomach of an old Israeli tank commander. My gut is big and getting bigger. When I try to control it with exercise and diet, it recedes briefly, then reappears, laughing and taunting, bigger than ever. I despair. Nothing works.

I know a woman—let's call her "my wife"—who swears by Spanx, special "body shaping" undergarments that magically hide her modest bulges. These New Age girdles are hugely popular with many women, but Spanx for dudes? I'd rather get a stomach staple.

Then last week, a company called Equmen (short for "equality for men" and no relation to Spanx) sent me an undershirt that promised to compress my core and give me a "more tailored look." It's aimed at guys and features

something called "helix mapping" technology, which is supposed to make you not only look better but also feel better, more supported through your torso and shoulders. The Australian company enlisted a physical therapist to help design the shirt's helix cross-stitching, which simulates the kind of taping a guy might get if he had a back injury.

I winched myself into the tiny garment and immediately felt sleeker. I ran to admire myself in a mirror. Not bad! But stuffed into that white tank top, I looked like a giant Weisswurst. So I slipped on a shirt and sashayed in front of my spouse, hoping she'd notice my smaller belly. "You shaved a month off the last trimester," she said, in that hard way of women who have been married for 21 years.

Equmen, having tested the waters in England last winter, is taking its line of Core Precision Undershirts to stores



MANCESSORIES

From Prada to Payless, more stores are selling men's sandals, a.k.a. mandals, which still seem more fem than flip-flops



More Than Manscara

To see some manny hose and other items, go to time.com/manscaring

in the U.S. I called Equmen co-founder Corie Chung and asked about her target audience. I noticed that in the company's promotional material, the models did not look like me. For one thing, they were models. For another, they were skinny models. "I have a massive gut," I overshared.

"We're really not encouraging massive guts," Chung admitted, noting that the undershirt is "really designed to give an average-size man a more streamlined look." Still, she claimed, the shirt can squeeze three inches off your belly. To trim more, she added, "we have a gray garment that provides 15% more compression." I am for more compression. Way more compression.

This fall the company will expand its lineup to include precision underpants. Yes, go ahead and reread that. Chung said the underpants will feature similar compression technology, which sounds kind of painful. But fear not, she assured me. They are designed to keep men comfortable and keep their precision parts cooler. "That area of a man is meant to be 1° colder than the rest of the body to optimize fertility," she said. Fertility is not my problem, I said. "It'll also give you a perkier rear end," she said. I agreed to test a sample in September.

As for the shirt, I love it—it's comfortable and wicks away sweat—and I'd wear one all the time if not for its \$89 price tag, the cheapest in the line. It's given me a whole new appreciation for my wife's underwear, though lately I've started to obsess about my thighs. I'm thinking manny hose.

**MONEY&
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How Today's
Economic Events
Are Affecting
Americans



YOUR HOME


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challenging
economy, you
can do plenty
to protect your
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Q: Given the boom, then bust, in real estate, what's the best way to think about my house: as an investment or just a place to live?

A: Your home may be your most valuable asset. But it's unlikely to deliver bigger gains in the long run than a diversified portfolio of stocks and bonds. And that was true even before real estate values started sinking. Over the past 20 years—a period including the headiest days of the housing bubble—home prices have averaged gains of just 3.6% a year. Stocks, despite their recent pummeling, were up 8.4% over the same period.

THE LONG-TERM ADVANTAGES. Owning a home, however, offers other important financial benefits. There are the tax breaks: deductions for mortgage interest and property taxes (plus, the first \$500,000 that couples make after selling is tax-free). Home ownership is also a stellar savings tool—every mortgage payment forces you to sock more money away, the key reason most homeowners have a higher net worth than renters. And real estate historically has been a good hedge against inflation.

ACTION PLAN

- ▶ Be realistic about gains. Expect the value of your home to rise about one to two percentage points over inflation in the long run.
- ▶ All real estate is still local: Keep up the value with trends in your area at Trulia.com and Zillow.com.
- ▶ Don't "overinvest" in renovations, assuming you'll recoup when you sell. Focus on projects that add functionality and fix problems.

STOCKS VS.
HOMES:
A 20-YEAR
VIEW

3.6%
AVERAGE
PER YEAR


HOMES

8.4%
AVERAGE
PER YEAR

STOCKS

EDITOR'S NOTE: What do I do now? That question is top of mind for millions of American homeowners, including those who attended a recent panel discussion led by Money editors at a Boston-area branch of Bank of America. The concerns voiced by audience members that day helped guide us in creating this report, part of a special series appearing in Money, Fortune, Time, and Real Simple magazines and websites, as well as on CNN. To learn more, visit CNN.com/moneyandmainstreet. — **CRAIG MATTERS**, Managing Editor, Money

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I think it's good that we actually move with
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PER YEAR

STOCKS

EDITOR'S NOTE: What do I do now? That question is top of mind for millions of American homeowners, including those who attended a recent panel discussion led by Money editors at a Boston-area branch of Bank of America. The concerns voiced by audience members that day helped guide us in creating this report, part of a special series appearing in Money, Fortune, Time, and Real Simple magazines and websites, as well as on CNN. To learn more, visit CNN.com/moneyandmainstreet. —**CRAIG MATTERS**, Managing Editor, Money

Q: Does it pay to refinance?

A: With mortgage rates near 35-year lows, you may be able to cut your payments sharply by refinancing your loan. To qualify for the best rates, you'll need a credit score of 740 or higher and usually at least 20% equity. But even if you have to settle for a higher rate, a new loan may save you money (see the worksheet at right). Also consider if you'll live in your home long enough to offset closing costs.

ACTION PLAN

- ▶ Get your credit score from Equifax for \$7.95 via annualcreditreport.com.
- ▶ Shop around for the lowest rates at mortgagemarvel.com.
- ▶ Run more refinance interest-rate options at cnmoney.com/tools.

WORKSHEET: Refinancing

See if a new 30-year loan will save you money now.

STEP 1 Your current monthly mortgage payment.....

STEP 2 Your new monthly mortgage payment if you refinance.....

For each \$1,000 you plan to borrow, multiply by the factor at right.

If the new rate is...

5.0%
5.2%
5.4%

multiply by...

5.37
5.49
5.62

Enter the total here.

STEP 3 Your monthly savings. Subtract result in Step 2 from Step 1.....

STEP 4 The total costs to refinance (appraisal, loan, title search, etc.).....

Ask your lender to supply or, to estimate your cost, enter 2% of the loan amount.

STEP 5 Months needed to recoup your costs.....

Divide result for Step 4 by Step 3.

Step 4 result ÷

Step 3 result

Enter the answer here.

The bottom line

If you plan to live in your home longer than the result in Step 5, it makes sense to refinance now.

Q: What are my options if I'm underwater on my mortgage?

% OF HOMEOWNERS WITH NEGATIVE EQUITY



SOURCE: Zillow.com

A: One out of five homeowners currently owes more on his mortgage than the house is worth. If you are among them but you can afford your payments and aren't planning to move for a few years, stop worrying. You are rebuilding equity with every payment you make, and home prices will eventually rebound, bringing you above water again.

Refinancing may also be an option. The government's new mortgage-relief program allows people who owe as much as 105% of their home's value to get a new loan—as long as their current mortgage is held by Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae and they can prove they will be able to afford the payments. Homeowners who are struggling financially may also be able to get their loans restructured.

Your last resort is a short sale, in which your lender lets you sell the house for less than you owe. But that might drop your credit score as much as 200 points, making it tough to get another loan at terms you can afford.

ACTION PLAN

- ▶ To see whether you're eligible to refinance or restructure your loan, go to mortgagereliefonline.com.
- ▶ Contact your lender if you're struggling to make your payments. You're more likely to get help if you reach out before warning notices start coming.
- ▶ Check short-sale prices in your area at realtytrac.com.

Q: How can I lower my insurance costs?

A: Talk about maddening: Even though your house is almost certainly worth less than it was a year or two ago, you'll most likely have to pay more to insure it this year. After a 23% increase over the past five years, premiums on homeowners policies are expected to rise another 3% in 2009 as insurance companies seek to offset their recent investment losses with price hikes. You can cut your premium costs by as much as 20% if you take advantage of commonly offered discounts (see below). And you may be able to save hundreds more by following the steps in the action plan at right.

ACTION PLAN

- ▶ **Raise your deductible.** Going from a \$250 to a \$2,500 deductible can cut the cost of insuring a \$300,000 home by \$400 a year.
- ▶ **Shop around, getting quotes at least once every two years.**
- ▶ **Check your CLUE (Comprehensive Loss Underwriting Exchange) report,** which details your past claims, at choicetrust.com. Errors can result in higher premiums.

POSSIBLE SAVINGS ON A \$2,000 ANNUAL PREMIUM

Don't count on your insurer to volunteer information about discounts. The biggest savings go to those who ask for them.



NOTES: Premium cuts vary by location and insurer; discounts will be smaller if combined.
SOURCE: Insurance Information Institute

Q: Can I still tap my home equity?

ACTION PLAN

► Shop for the best terms; start with your mortgage lender.

A: More than a year after credit started getting crunchy, lenders are hanging tough about home-equity borrowing. But if you meet their stricter standards—a high credit score, substantial equity, and less debt relative to your income than needed a few years ago—you should still be able to borrow against your house.

Be sure to use your line of credit occasionally, even if it mostly serves as a backup emergency fund. Dormant lines can be targets for closure. If your line is cut or frozen, call your lender to see whether the decision is reversible, citing your good credit profile.

QUALIFYING IS TOUGHER

Typical minimums required for a home-equity line of credit

	2006	2009
CREDIT SCORE	620	720
HOME EQUITY	0% to 10%	20% to 40%
MONTHLY DEBT-TO-INCOME	Under 55%	Under 41%

SOURCE: Zillow.com

Q: Is now a good time to trade up?

A: With home prices down 30% from their peak, trading up now can land you a bigger house at a bargain price. True, you may take a hit selling your place, but the amount you'll save on the higher-priced home should more than offset that.

Plus, it should be easier to sell a starter home now, due to a new \$8,000 federal tax credit for first-time buyers.

Sure, you might get an even better deal if you wait. But it could be risky. Best bet: If prices are still falling sharply in your area, hold off. If prices are leveling off, start shopping. (Follow local trends at Zillow.com and Trulia.com.)

ACTION PLAN

► Factor future price drops into your bid.
► Look into lower-priced short sales.
► Stay shy of higher-rate jumbo mortgages (typically, loans over \$417,000) if possible.

WORKSHEET: Trading Up

Estimate how much home you can handle (assuming at least a 20% down payment).

STEP 1 How much mortgage you can afford (multiply 25% of your monthly income by 186.28)

STEP 2 Down payment needed to qualify for that mortgage (multiply Step 1 by 0.25)

STEP 3 How much you'll clear selling your current home (subtract mortgage balance from 90% of likely sales price)

STEP 4 Total amount available for down payment (Step 3 plus any additional savings)

How much house you can afford:

► If amount in Step 4 is greater than Step 2: Step 1 + Step 4.

► If the amount in Step 4 is less than Step 2: Step 4 x 5.

NOTE: Assumes a 30-year fixed mortgage at 5%; real estate commission and other closing costs of 10%. SOURCE: National Association of Realtors

MONEY & MAIN ST.

PRINT

Look for more reports in *Fortune*, *Money*, *Real Simple*, and *Time*.

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Ricardo Smith Banking Center Manager

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for us.



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life has been.



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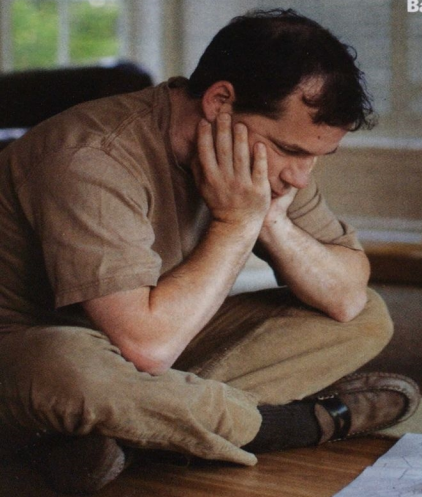


home does not like part 7b.

Home thinks part 7b looks a lot like part 3a. Home likes easy to understand instructions. So there are no headaches. That's why we created our Clarity Commitment™ — a simple, one-page loan summary written in plain language. So whether you're buying a new home, or refinancing your current one, there are no surprises or confusion. Starting now, home has a new address. Bank of America Home Loans.


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BOOKS ■ SHORT LIST



Summer is a bracingly honest season for readers: it's too hot to pretend to be clever, so you just read books you actually like. **TIME** asked some of its favorite writers what they read when they read for fun

KEY:

- R** ROMANCE
D DEATH
A ACTION
F FUNNY
L LITERARY
D DOORSTOP

Geoff Dyer picks *Sum* by David Eagleman

Big books don't have to be big! I mean, books addressing huge topics don't have to be long. Clocking in at just over 100 pages, David Eagleman's mind-blowing *Sum* consists of 40 dazzlingly brief visions of what might happen when you shuffle off this mortal coil. In one imagined version of the afterlife, you are confronted by all your potential selves—the versions of yourself that you could have become if you'd worked a little harder. That attractive proposition turns out to be tormenting, for “the more you fall short of your potential, the more of these annoying selves you are forced to deal with.” Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities* provides a precedent of sorts, both for the way in which the impossible is made palpable and for the skill with which inventory turns to ingenious fable, but Eagleman is a true original. Read *Sum* and be amazed. Reread it and be reamazed all over again.

Dyer's latest novel is *Jeff in Venice, Death in Varanasi*

D

Glen David Gold picks the *Scott Pilgrim* series by Bryan Lee O'Malley

Scott Pilgrim is the best 23-year-old ever. Like Proust's Swann, he has a story that takes multiple volumes to unfold, except *Pilgrim* is even more awesome because he's in a comic book. In love with the exquisite Ramona Flowers, he must win her heart by fighting her seven evil ex-boyfriends. Scott is lazy, self-centered, immature and ultimately a winning hero. Drawing on *manga*, Bollywood, video games, rock music—and probably things that went over my head because I'm 45—the series is wildly enjoyable for its absurdist humor, its indelible characters and its growing, inevitable sense of melancholy as *Pilgrim* becomes that most terrifying of things: 24 years old.

Gold is the author of the novels *Carter Beats the Devil* and *Sunnyside*, which was published this spring

R A F

Kate Christensen picks *The Man Who Was Thursday* by G.K. Chesterton

Kingsley Amis called it “the most thrilling book I have ever read.” I started reading G.K. Chesterton's *The Man Who Was Thursday* on a subway ride, almost missed my stop and walked home thumbing pages. It's a wacky, nightmarish, deliriously well-written adventure story for grownups in which nothing is what it seems and everyone wears a mask, whether figurative or literal. Thursday, real name Gabriel Syme, is a poet turned detective gone undercover in an anarchists' society, determined to foil its bomb plot and dismantle the forces of modern pessimism, atheism and chaos. The characters and landscapes he encounters are so vividly depicted, they crackle on the page. I agree with Amis: it's hard to think of a more thrilling book.

Christensen's most recent novel, *Trouble*, was published in June

D A F L



Ruth Reichl picks *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout

Olive Kitteridge is not a nice person. Big and blunt, she stomps through her small Maine town, trampling people's feelings wherever she goes. She is horrid to her sweet husband Henry ("You, Mr. Head Deacon Claptrap") and mean to her son Christopher ("Your new wife is so nice, it makes me puke"). To a small girl at Christopher's wedding, she says, "Go away, before I eat you," and then opens her new daughter-in-law's closet to run Magic Marker across a sweater. Olive spares no one. And yet you can't help liking her. This gorgeously spare book about love and loneliness offers us the gift of forgiveness, for as we absolve Olive of all the awful things she's done, we also forgive ourselves our own trespasses.

Reichl's most recent memoir is *Not Becoming My Mother*

R D L

Jennifer Weiner picks *Geek Love* by Katherine Dunn

How to describe *Geek Love*? It's the story of a family of circus freaks headed up by a matriarch who deliberately ingests poison when she's pregnant so that her kids' resulting deformities will guarantee their lifelong employment. Our heroine, her daughter, is a hunchback albino dwarf named Olympia, and the book details her childhood; her lifelong love affair with her limbless brother Arturo, who forms a cult of voluntary amputees; and her quest to rescue their lovely (but with a little something extra) daughter Miranda from unspeakable peril. Huh. Maybe just say it's a story about a dysfunctional family, the longing for normality and the enduring bond of a mother's love, and tell your friends they won't be sorry.

Weiner's new novel, *Best Friends Forever*, is out in July

R D F L

Colson Whitehead picks *Autobiography of Red* by Anne Carson

It's a novel! It's a book of poetry! It's a novel and a book of poetry! And like all sturdy volumes, it can also serve as a coaster on a hot summer afternoon. The "Red" of the title is Geryon, red-winged monster and minor player in Greek mythology, struck down by Herakles during one of his labors. As this modern Geryon awakens to all the possibility of the world—romantic, erotic, artistic—Carson's playful and mind-bending reinterpretation is never less than bewitching. Do yourself a favor and get in touch with your inner red monster.

Whitehead's most recent novel is *Sag Harbor*

R L

QUICK PICKS

Former Secretary of State **Madeleine K. Albright** recommends *Midnight's Children* by **Salman Rushdie**, a "brilliant story of the history of India and Pakistan, with magical realism filled in." She is reading the latest translation of **Leo Tolstoy's** *War and Peace* on her Kindle.



Author and TV host **Martha Stewart** is reading *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by **Muriel Barbery**. "The book came highly recommended," Stewart says. She uses her Kindle to store 38 books and keep up with the **New York Times** and the **Wall Street Journal**.

Economist and columnist **Paul Krugman** is looking forward to *Stieg Larsson's The Girl Who Played with Fire*, the sequel to *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, which he says he "read with great enjoyment while traveling through Asia. Clever stuff—and a financial journalist as the hero! (Albeit with second billing to the hacker heroine.)" Krugman recently downloaded *The First Tycoon* by **T.J. Stiles**, about the rise of Cornelius Vanderbilt, onto his Kindle.



Lee Child picks *The Northern Clemency* by Philip Hensher

I'm going to read *The Northern Clemency*, a good old-fashioned 600-page novel about two families, set in England over a 20-year period spanning the 1970s to the '90s... fun for me because it takes place during times—and upheavals—that I remember very well, in the city where I went to college. I'm told it's funny, moving, full of drama and detail and humanity, and I'm hoping it'll prove once again that to really understand recent history, you need to approach it through fiction, not nonfiction.

*Child is the author, most recently, of the No. 1 New York Times best seller *Gone Tomorrow**

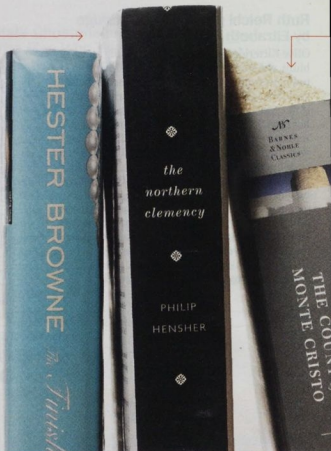
R D F L D

Sophie Kinsella picks *The Finishing Touches* by Hester Browne

The Finishing Touches is a charming and funny novel about Betsy Phillimore, who was found as a baby on the steps of an English finishing school. Now that she's grown up, she comes back to save it and give it a 21st century revamp. Out with white gloves and fish knives; in with snappy, savvy essentials for modern girls. I loved all the pieces of advice and scribbled a few down! There are some great characters, and the story is entertaining throughout. It's moving too, with some really poignant moments. All in all, a delicious and witty delight.

*Kinsella is the author of the *Shopaholic* series. Her new novel, *Twenties Girl*, will be published in July*

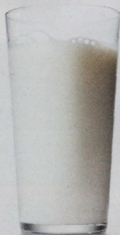
R F



Six



ingredients



counting



Aravind Adiga picks *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas

The hero of Dumas's 19th century classic is young Frenchman Edmond Dantès. On the eve of his marriage, Edmond finds himself falsely accused of a terrible crime. He is stripped of his job and bride and exiled to a faraway island prison for life. Who has done this to him—and why? It takes a while, but Edmond figures it out, then breaks out of prison, finds a fabulous fortune, changes his identity and plots his revenge. I reread this book every few years. I think it is possibly the most perfect story ever told.

Adiga is the author of *Between the Assassinations* and *The White Tiger*, which won the Man Booker Prize in 2008

R D A L D

J. Courtney Sullivan picks *The Wife* by Meg Wolitzer

The Wife, Wolitzer's slim jewel of a novel, is the sort of book you could easily read in one sitting but wish would last all summer. Set partly at Smith College in the 1950s, it chronicles the life of a talented writer (and Smith grad) whose dreams are subsumed by those of her famous novelist husband (he's also her former professor). I admire Wolitzer's humor and her ability to create tightly packed, pitch-perfect sentences. *The Wife* is a brilliant take on marriage, motherhood and ambition, as well as a reminder of how far American women have come.

Sullivan's debut novel is *Commencement*

R L

QUICK PICKS

Actress **Abigail Breslin** is reading *Prada & Prejudice* by Mandy Hubbard. It's about a girl who thinks she'll be cool if she wears the right shoes and clothes to fit in but then takes a fall and ends up in the year 1815. "I love fashion, and I am fascinated by history. This book combines both," Breslin says.

T. Boone Pickens, investor and entrepreneur, is breaking in a new Kindle, which he uses to keep up on the news by downloading the *Financial Times*, the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times*.



the



spoon.



Introducing the poetically simple ice cream from Häagen-Dazs.

Radhika Jones picks
The Scenic Route by
 Binnie Kirshenbaum

What better place to start a summer romance than a café with a view in the ancient Tuscan town of Fiesole? For Sylvia Landsman, a love affair crossed with a European road trip is a chance to reflect on her tumultuous past. But Kirshenbaum's novel keeps its note of serenity. It's the perfect vehicle for summer daydreams.

R F

Mary Pols picks
Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer by
 Novella Carpenter

Carpenter's memoir is about living off the land, but with a twist: her "farm" is an abandoned lot in one of the suzziest neighborhoods in Oakland, Calif. She obsesses over watermelon seedlings, duck-slaying and Dumpster-diving (to feed her pigs) but never loses sight of the junkie shooting up across the street. Carpenter is deft, compassionate and funny. You'll miss her as soon as you turn that last page.

D F L

Joe Klein picks
The Increment by
 David Ignatius

The Washington Post's David Ignatius, who knows more about the CIA than any other columnist does, writes terrific spy novels, usually set in the Middle East and filled with intricate and plausible tradecraft. This time he's right on top of the news: an Iranian nuclear scientist wants to switch sides. Much of the action takes place in Tehran, which Ignatius knows well, and the pages fly.

D A

Lev Grossman picks
Ringworld by Larry Niven

It's Louis Wu's 200th birthday, and he's bored. It's the far future; Earth is a techno-Utopia, but life just isn't that exciting. Enter the Puppeters, aliens who kidnap Louis and dispatch him to explore a ring-shaped world of unknown origin. Published in 1970, *Ringworld* is still fresh and rich and wildly entertaining—Niven is a galaxy-class storyteller—and its rigorous scientific foundations make SF-lite like *Transformers 2* look like yesterday's news.

R D A

Richard Lacayo picks
Brighton Rock by
 Graham Greene

Greene's 1938 novel was his first masterpiece, the story of a killer who has perfected his game—at 17. Pinkie Brown, a hood in the resort town of Brighton, is so good at what he does because he's so dead inside. Even the waitress who adores him is subject to his lethal self-interest. But this is Greene-land, where God's will matters, so they'll both bear witness to the "appalling strangeness" of his mercy.

D L

QUICK PICKS

Blue Hill chef **Dan Barber** has a busy summer of reading in store, with books including *A Short History of Women* by **Kate Walbert**. "I'll read anything written by Kate Walbert," he says. "She's one of the most amazing writers, often flying under the radar." Also on his list are *F.H. King's Farmers of Forty Centuries: Organic Farming in China, Korea, and Japan* and *Phillip Roth's Indignation* ("Still catching up with last year's list").



Musician **John Legend**, who takes his Kindle everywhere he goes, is reading *God's Problem* by **Bart D. Ehrman**. Before that, he read *Jesus, Interrupted* by the same author. "He has some interesting thoughts about Christian theology and the history of the Bible," Legend says.

Retired general **Wesley K. Clark** is reading *John M. Barry's The Great Influenza*. "John Barry writes great history," says Clark. "This is about the medical profession, bureaucracies and governments dealing with unanticipated catastrophe. There are lessons to be learned." —REPORTED BY ERIC DODDS AND REBECCA KAPLAN



Short List

TIME'S PICKS FOR THE WEEK



1 MOVIE Afghan Star

Documentarian Havana Marking follows four finalists—including a woman threatened by the Taliban—in Afghanistan's version of *American Idol*. For many Afghans, texted votes are a first taste of democracy. A touching portrait of a country in need of levity. Plus: Afghan Seacrest.

2 DVD RiffTrax

The guys from the immortal *Mystery Science Theater 3000* have split into two groups to make more fun of cheesy movies. Mike Nelson's RiffTrax efforts are out on 10 DVDs; Joel Hodgson's Cinematic Titanic team does live tours. The comedy magic lingers. Best Brains never dies!

3 DVD The John Barrymore Collection

A matinee idol and Shakespearean star in his prime, he's now known mainly as Drew's grandfather. This box set has four of Barrymore's silent-movie triumphs, including *Sherlock Holmes* and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Nearly a century later, the Great Profile can still beguile.

4 BOOK The Art of Harvey Kurtzman

Founding editor and writer of *Mad* (and of *Trump*, *Humbug* and *Help!*), Kurtzman taught pre-Vietnam America that satire is the first step to social subversion. Denis Kitchen and Paul Buhle's book is a richly illustrated tribute to this influential *Mad* man.

5 MOVIE Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs

In the third *Ice Age* cartoon from Blue Sky Studios, the prehistoric gang falls into a nether world of dinos. Smartly designed but way too frantic, the movie is buoyed by a brigand weasel (voiced by Simon Pegg) and saved by Scrut the squirrel's tryst with a wily vixen.

Arts Online

For more reviews and openings this weekend, go to time.com/entertainment



Mary-Louise Parker's Short List

A Tony, Emmy and two-time Golden Globe Award winner, the versatile Mary-Louise Parker is starring in Season 5 of *Weeds* as a suburban pot-selling mom. Next she'll co-star in the film *Solitary Man*. When Parker isn't tending to her garden, she can be found "listening" to photographs or getting her fix from poetry.

Searing images

The work of Brazilian photographer Sebastião Salgado is currently on display at the Peter Fetterman Gallery in Santa Monica, Calif. As you fall into Salgado's humane and sometimes devastating depictions of Sudanese boys fleeing the war, or a family in Tokar, Sudan, in search of refuge, you feel the scale of the planet and your place on it.

Poets who breathe life

I would like to give it up for Mark Strand, Jorie Graham, Charles Simic and Yusef Komunyakaa. Reading Strand's "The Coming of Light" from *The Story of Our Lives* is like getting some kind of transfusion.

Explosive photos

I met the photographer Danny Clinch while appearing in his video for the Charlie Mars song "Listen to the Darkside." His photos have an immediacy that makes you feel as if he set off a gun in the studio right before snapping the shot. He's known mostly for his photos of musicians, but the next best thing to actually hearing his photographs is being able to look at them.

Ritter, Rufus & Co.

It isn't a good summer day without men who write and sing their own songs: Josh Ritter, the aforementioned Charlie Mars, Saul Ashby, George Stanford and Rufus Wainwright. Ritter's "Baby That's Not All" or Mars' "Banging on Your Door" is perfect for lying down somewhere cool when it's hot. If in doubt, I say, Rufus, Rufus, Rufus.

Comic relief

I've heard Lewis Black's *The End of the Universe* so many times that I can't believe I still laugh, but I always do.





Joel

Stein

Afterbirth for Dinner. My wife ate her own placenta. I had to watch. And then I had to write

THERE IS SO MUCH YOU CAN'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR spouse when you get married, like that one day she will want to eat her placenta. But there are two things you don't argue about with a pregnant woman: what she eats and that being full of life indeed looks sexy. So when Cassandra told me that for \$275, a woman would come to our house, cook Cassandra's placenta, freeze-dry it and turn it into capsules to help ward off postpartum depression and increase milk supply, I said, "\$275 is a bargain compared with the \$20,000 I'll have to spend to tear out our kitchen immediately afterward."

Most mammals, Cassandra explained, eat their placentas, to which I countered that most dogs eat their poop. I stopped arguing there, figuring that like many of Cassandra's hippie ideas—the compost bin, rubbing lemon on her underarms instead of deodorant—she'd give up on this in a few weeks. Even as the due date approached and she was still set on eating her placenta, I couldn't imagine that she'd remember to request it from the doctor after the most physically draining experience of her life. This is a woman who, 9 times out of 10, forgets the bag of leftovers at the restaurant.

Though I am exceedingly squeamish, when my son was born, I was shocked that I saw only the beauty of childbirth. Until the placenta came out. There are many normal human reactions to seeing a placenta, ranging from screaming to vomiting to warding it off with a cross. For those of you who have never seen one, the placenta is to the baby what Stephen Baldwin is to Alec Baldwin. It's what your liver would look like if it got into an accident on the autobahn with one of those aliens from *Mars Attacks!* and their bloody carcasses threw jellyfish at each other.

When the placenta did come out, Cassandra, dazed from 21 hours of labor, somehow made sure the nurses delivered it to us in a flat plastic container, which I put into an ice-filled *Monsters vs Aliens* cooler I brought. When I asked if I could keep the placenta overnight in the refrigerator out in the hall, the nurses looked at me like I was crazy. When you gross out people who work at a hospital, you have accomplished something.

In a fog, I drove the placenta home, where I wrapped the container in a bag and wrapped that bag in a bag and

wrapped that bag in every remaining bag we had in the house. I slept at the hospital that night, grateful that my son will never remember what his parents just did.

The next day I drove back to the house to meet the placenta lady, Sara Pereira. To my surprise, Sara did not look unkempt, frumpy, heavy or in any way like a Wiccan. She got into placenta-cooking after taking a Chinese-medicine course and has already prepared more than two dozen placentas this year—and orders are picking up rapidly. When I asked Sara if her parents were embarrassed by what she does, she told me that her father sells bull semen.

By law, Sara has to cook the placenta at the placenta

owner's home. But to my great relief, she brought her own equipment, gloves, sponges and even more detergent than I'd hoped, scrubbing constantly as she worked. If I ever kill a man in my own home, I am totally calling the placenta lady.

As she steamed the placenta with some herbs, the kitchen got that ironlike smell of cooked organ meat, with vague undertones of a consciousness-raising group and a Betty Friedan rally. Sara said Cassandra had a particularly robust placenta, and she hoped to get 120 pills out of it. As she

sliced the cooked organ and put it on parchment paper in a dehydrator, she told me that some people drink the placenta raw as a smoothie. "I do this for a living, and I couldn't do that," she said. The pills, she explained, were superior, since Cassandra could stretch their hormone-rich benefits much further, perhaps even freezing some for menopause. Sara did not understand that when Cassandra's looks fade in her 50s, there's no way I'm putting up with this crap.

I drove back to the hospital where, thanks to my experiences, the food looked good. When we got home the following day, Sara gave us a truly beautiful placenta-pill presentation: a pretty glass jar, a card, a CD of lullabies and a satin pouch. In which was part of my son's umbilical cord, fashioned into a heart. When I asked Sara what the hell I was supposed to do with that, she said people often use it to keep a baby's first tooth and lock of hair. That's when I realized that placenta-eating is really just the beginning of how gross we humans are. And I went to change my first diaper.



[illegible]

BREAK IN YOUR JEANS

[illegible]

Apple iPhone 3G S



The next iPhone.

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